Welsh Headlines — 4 Oct 2026

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Compiled 09:45 BST, Sunday 4 October 2026 • Sources: BBC Wales and BBC Wales Politics indexes, BBC Sport, BBC Cymru Fyw, Nation.Cymru (news / sport / culture / feature), GOV.WALES, The Guardian Wales (RSS + article), BBC Weather (Playwright fetch service). Nitter, Phice, Flaresolverr and Reddit skipped — services down.

? Top Story: "Get on with the day job" — Millar takes the independence fight to Plaid

Welsh Conservative leader Darren Millar will accuse Plaid Cymru of putting independence ahead of public services when he addresses the Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham this afternoon, telling First Minister Rhun ap Iorwerth to "get on with the day job". "He told voters in May that the Senedd election was not about independence," Millar will say. "Well, either he didn't get his own memo… or he deliberately chose to deceive people." He dubs the First Minister the "Plaid Piper of Anglesey" and says his "real plan, a plan to draw a slate curtain between Wales and the rest of the UK, will cause more harm than good for our children and future generations", claiming waiting lists have risen, school standards fallen and Welsh businesses continued to struggle since Plaid took office in May. The speech attacks September's Cardiff meeting between ap Iorwerth, Scottish First Minister John Swinney and Northern Ireland First Minister Michelle O'Neill, who declared that "Westminster's time is coming to an end" — Millar will accuse the FM of choosing to "cosy up to the SNP and Sinn Féin" rather than fix public services. Speaking in the conference's Union session before Kemi Badenoch's leader's speech, he will declare that "Britain needs Badenoch" and defend the ties between the four nations: "The United Kingdom is more than a political arrangement. We are a shared family of nations." (Nation.Cymru — Mark Mansfield)

?? Senedd & Politics

? Plaid holds a five-point Senedd lead — but Labour claws back seven points

A new More in Common poll puts Plaid Cymru on 32% for the Senedd, five points clear of Reform UK on 27%, with Labour recovering seven points to 18% since May's election defeat. The survey of 919 Welsh adults aged 16+, carried out 24-30 September and released at Plaid's Llandudno conference, found the Senedd voting intentions (changes rounded from May) as: **Plaid 32% (down three), Reform 27% (down two), Labour 18% (up seven), Conservatives 12% (up one), Greens 6% (down one), Lib Dems 5% (up one)**. For Westminster the picture flips: **Reform 27%, Labour 22%, Plaid 18%, Conservatives 16%, Greens 9%, Lib Dems 5%, Restore Britain 2%** — with Labour still 15 points below its 2024 Welsh general-election vote share. **Andy Burnham is the only leader tested with a positive net approval rating (+3)**; ap Iorwerth and Badenoch both score −3 and Nigel Farage −29. Seven in ten voters see the new Welsh Government as "more of the same" as the previous Labour administration, and living costs and NHS waiting lists are named as the main tests. Luke Tryl of More in Common said "the appetite for radical change that fuelled Reform's rise this year clearly hasn't gone away". (Nation.Cymru — Mark Mansfield)

?? Plaid: Burnham should back EU membership now

Liz Saville Roberts, Plaid's leader in Westminster, has urged the Prime Minister not to wait for a general election before committing to reversing Brexit. She told BBC Wales that Wales "has just lost out" since 2016 and that Plaid is "not afraid to be bold" in campaigning to rejoin — after Burnham said it was "possible" a future Labour manifesto could promise a new in-out referendum, though he told reporters last week a referendum would not be the "right thing to do now". Wales voted to leave in 2016, in line with the UK; the UK left in 2020. (BBC Wales — David Deans / BBC Cymru Fyw)

? Plaid elects Karl Davies as national chair

Former Plaid Cymru chief executive Karl Davies has been elected the party's new national chair, beating Gwynedd county councillor Elin Hywel and former Ynys Môn Westminster candidate John Rowlands in a members' vote at conference. Davies said the party must "nurture the party's base in all parts of Wales" to build on May's Senedd win, insisting Plaid is "clearly in a better place than it has been in the 101 years since it was founded". (Nation.Cymru — Martin Shipton)

??? Cardiff Half Marathon

About 30,000 runners are expected in Cardiff today for the 23rd Cardiff Half Marathon, with widespread road closures and warnings of travel disruption. The 13.1-mile (21km) route starts on Castle Street at **10:00 BST**, passing the Wales Millennium Centre and the Principality Stadium, with bands and choirs along the course. The race sold out after going to a ballot for the first time last year and there are no on-the-day entries; it is part of the SuperHalfs series (Lisbon, Prague, Berlin, Valencia, Copenhagen) and holds a World Athletics Elite Road Race label, with competitors from Kenya, Ethiopia, the USA, Australia and the Netherlands. **Joyciline Jepkosgei**, the first athlete to run a half marathon under 65 minutes, headlines the women's field, with Gideon Kiprotich the fastest entrant. Transport for Wales is running extra services into Cardiff and Cathays station closes from 11:00 except for accessible access (trains as reported on 1 October). Among the runners: **Kiera Hodges, 21,** of Newport, who nearly lost her leg twice while being treated for leukaemia at Noah's Ark Children's Hospital at 14 and has since taught herself to walk again twice; and **Sam Jordan, 31,** of Cross Hands, running for Tŷ Hafan. (BBC Wales — Angharad Thomas / BBC Cymru Fyw — Iolo Cheung)

?? Communities, Schools & Money

? Swansea pupil numbers forecast to fall 17% in six years

Pupil numbers in Swansea are forecast to drop by more than 5,000 by 2032, raising questions over the long-term viability of some schools. Officers model **26,678 primary and secondary pupils in 2032 against 32,028 now — a fall of 5,350, or 17%**, reflecting the wider declining birth rate. Cabinet member **Robert Smith** said forecasting "wasn't an exact science" but the figures "are as robust as they can be"; a council report says the trend poses significant challenges for education planning and funding. (BBC Wales / Local Democracy Reporting Service — Richard Youle, Antonia Matthews)

? Neath Port Talbot moves to split a 1,591-pupil Welsh-medium school

Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur could be split into two separate Welsh-medium schools in its current form, as the council reshapes provision for a "significant increase in pupils" accessing Welsh education. The single school runs over two campuses — one in Sandfields, Port Talbot and one in the Swansea Valley village of Ystalyfera — with **1,591 pupils** and nursery-to-sixth-form provision at Ystalyfera. The proposal was discussed at Neath Port Talbot's education scrutiny committee on 1 October as part of its Strategic School Improvement Programme, which a report said would "most likely" mean new schools opening and others closing, merging or amalgamating. (Nation.Cymru / LDR — Lewis Smith)

? Porthcawl's Buccaneer to be restored, not demolished

The Buccaneer pub on Mackworth Road in Porthcawl — closed since April 2024 — could be restored to its original 1930s "ocean liner" design under new regeneration plans, having been acquired by the Welsh Government. Bridgend council has outlined early proposals to restore the distinctive seafront building and strip out "mismatched modern additions" as part of the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration scheme, with early ideas including a restaurant or café, shops and kiosks. Its previous owner had sought permission to demolish it. (Nation.Cymru / LDR — Lewis Smith)

? Landfill smell sensors "cannot detect" the odour that plagues residents

Residents near Hafod landfill, Johnstown, near Wrexham, have been told the monitors installed to track persistent smells cannot reliably measure hydrogen sulphide at nuisance levels. The AQMesh monitors **cannot accurately measure the gas below eight parts per billion (ppb)**, although humans can detect it at 1ppb and the odour is clearly noticeable at 5ppb. Campaigner **Steve Gittins** obtained correspondence from calibration firm **Geotechnology** stating the 8ppb value "should not be used as an air quality benchmark or threshold metric". Wrexham Council says the sensors still provide valuable information and were never intended to test compliance with regulatory standards. (Nation.Cymru / LDR — Alec Doyle)

? Cardiff Met to buy University Hall from Cardiff University

Cardiff Metropolitan University has agreed to buy University Hall in Birchwood Road, Cyncoed, a site housing more than 650 Cardiff University students. Contracts were exchanged on 1 October, with the sale due to complete in July 2027; current residents stay until their tenancies end next summer and Cardiff Met's first students are expected that September. Staff employed by Cardiff University at the site will be consulted on a possible transfer, and the university says the deal changes the balance between its own rooms and private halls rather than increasing its total. Vice-chancellor **Professor Rachael Langford** said it would let more students live a short walk from the Cyncoed campus. (Nation.Cymru)

? "Positive" talks over Newport's Westgate Hotel

Talks over the future of Newport's Westgate Hotel — scene of the 1839 Chartist rising — are advancing, a senior councillor has said. The privately owned city-centre building is the subject of confidential discussions between council leaders and an unnamed interested party. Cllr

William Routley called it "the birthplace of our democracy" and warned: "We cannot let the monument slowly rot in quiet decay." Regeneration cabinet member **Cllr James Clarke** said decision-makers "understand the importance of the Westgate". (Nation.Cymru / LDR — Nicholas Thomas)

?? Wales admired — but hard to book

Visitors love the idea of Wales but struggle to turn it into a trip, with unclear transport and costs pushing them to other destinations, research commissioned by Visit Wales has found. Researchers held 45-minute interviews with **84 people** — 28 each from the UK, the US and Germany — in January and February. Participants tied Wales to green landscapes, mountains and outdoor activities, but researchers say Scotland evokes the Highlands and Edinburgh and Ireland Dublin and the Wild Atlantic Way, while Wales lacks an equally clear set of images; the report recommends more emphasis on Welsh culture and clearer itineraries. (Nation.Cymru)

?? Policing & Appeals

? Police open a direct line to the mother of the baby found on the Menai Strait shore

North Wales Police have set up a special phone line and appealed directly to the mother of a newborn baby girl whose body was found on the shoreline near Siliwen Road in Bangor, Gwynedd. The body was found by a member of the public shortly before 17:00 BST on Sunday 27 September; a post-mortem found the baby was a girl who may have been in the water for up to a few weeks. **Supt Llinos Davies** said a specialist would answer the woman's call and support her confidentially: "We understand that you may be scared to come forward, but we urge you to contact us... you do not have to face this on your own." Betsi Cadwaladr's director of midwifery, **Fiona Giraud**, has also appealed for her to come forward. (BBC Wales — Antonia Matthews)

?? Llanfairfechan crash victim named as Harrison Glynne Jones, 6

The six-year-old boy killed when he was struck by a van outside his home in Llanfairfechan, Conwy, has been named as Harrison Glynne Jones. He was described in a fundraising page as a "cheeky chappy, full of character with a personality that could light up a room", and "loved more deeply than words could ever express". Officers were called to **Mill Road** after 17:00 BST on Thursday to reports involving a white Ford Transit Tipper; a 39-year-old man was arrested and later released under investigation. The GoFundMe set up by **Kate Jones** for

funeral costs and household bills was nearing its **£20,000** target by Saturday morning. (BBC Wales — Antonia Matthews / BBC Cymru Fyw)

? Environment

? Greyhound racing ban stalls over rehoming standoff

Wales' greyhound racing ban — a UK first — has run into difficulties over how and when to wind the sport down, with a charity warning the animals' welfare is at risk. The law received royal assent in April with a three-year window and is overseen by a Welsh Government implementation group; its first report revealed an **impasse** between welfare groups, who want a phased approach to avoid rehoming hundreds of dogs at once, and industry representatives, who say phasing out racing is impractical. The report recommended a **12-month wind-down** but says ministers cannot mandate it, and there is currently no mechanism to resolve the deadlock. **Valley Greyhounds Stadium near Caerphilly — Wales' only track — now has around 360 dogs and 18 trainers registered**, with the closure of tracks in Oxford and Swindon having pushed trainers its way, meaning racing in Wales has actually increased since the ban passed; the implementation report put rehoming costs at up to **£2,800 per dog**. GBGB data records 2,700 greyhound deaths and more than 26,500 injuries between 2018 and 2023. Greyhound Rescue Wales chief executive **Claire James** said: "If there is a hard stop, we and the other groups working to end greyhound racing will do whatever it takes." (The Guardian — Steven Morris)

? Humpback whale surprises Pembrokeshire shark guide

A wildlife cinematographer has described the "complete surprise" of spotting a humpback whale in the Celtic Deep, 25-30 miles off the Pembrokeshire coast, during a blue shark snorkelling trip on 25 September. Dan Abbot — "Sharkman Dan" — had seen humpbacks before on planned trips but never in this area. **Lloyd Nelmes** of Sea Trust called it "unusual for someone who works in the field… for a normal person, it's insanely rare". (BBC Wales — Amelia Shone-Adams)

?? Hollywood cottage to help save Wales' red squirrels

A former gamekeeper's cottage on Ynys Môn that featured in the 2025 film *Anemone* — starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Sean Bean and Samantha Morton — will be converted to

support Wales' red squirrel population. Isle of Anglesey County Council has approved a plan to turn the semi-derelict stone building at **Clyddyn, Pentraeth** — surrounded by ancient woodland — into a storage facility, convert an existing pig sty into a bat roost and retain hard standing and a pathway. The site was bought by **Red Squirrels Trust Wales** in 2008/09 and the applicant is **Dr Craig Shuttleworth**; *Anemone* was directed by Ronan Day-Lewis and filmed at locations across north Wales including Aria Studios. (Nation.Cymru / LDR — Dale Spridgeon)

? Culture, Language & Media

? Barrylesque: Cabaret's Gavin & Stacey send-up

Wales Millennium Centre's in-house Cabaret venue has unveiled *Barrylesque: OH! It's a Parody!* — a burlesque spectacular inspired by *Gavin & Stacey*, running 16 December 2026 to 2 January 2027. The show collides Barry Island and Billericay in a glitter-drenched cabaret club, with familiar faces turned into drag and burlesque performers — "part cabaret, part sitcom and entirely tongue-in-cheek", created by the Cabaret team with a cast and creative team of Welsh and Wales-based artists. (Nation.Cymru)

? Welsh-language "hard" science fiction breaks new ground

***Enigma*, published this month by Melin Bapur, is billed by its editor as doing something never done before in Welsh — a hard science fiction novel about the discovery of signs of intelligent extra-terrestrial life and an international mission to investigate it.** Its author, **Gerald Coles**, is a retired doctor from Middlesex who has lived in Wales for over 60 years and learned Welsh as an adult. Melin Bapur editor **Adam Pearce** said Welsh sci-fi has "a distinguished history, but it's largely of a piece: almost every example in Welsh is either dystopian, post-apocalyptic or both". (Nation.Cymru — Stephen Price)

??????? Jonathan Ross's daughter is learning Welsh

Video producer Gav Murphy has spoken about how his girlfriend Honey Ross — daughter of TV presenter Jonathan Ross — is learning Welsh. Murphy, from Wales, said Honey is using Duolingo and has a "bonkers" memory, and that he encourages her to practise with their dog, Coco. The couple met on Instagram and bonded over films, he told BBC Radio Cymru's *Beti a'i Phobol*. (BBC Cymru Fyw)

? Features

- □□ **AI models and body image.** BBC Wales spoke to **Mia Perumal, 19**, a Cardiff University student who has recovered from an eating disorder and fears AI-generated "models" are making unrealistic beauty standards harder to escape: "The only option to prevent harm is for AI to be controlled," she said. (BBC Wales — Rowenna Hoskin)
- □□ **"Situational psychopathy" at work. Geraint Anderson, 53**, a former London banker who now lives in Monmouthshire, says a clinical psychologist told him he may have developed "situational psychopathy" to survive 12 years and millions of pounds in the City before leaving ahead of the 2008 crash: "I had to really become a kind of worse version of myself in order to thrive." (BBC Wales — Angharad Thomas)
- □□ **The Welsh journalist who can't forget Christa Pike. Helen Roberts** interviewed Tennessee death row inmate **Christa Pike** 20 years ago, aged 30, when she was the youngest woman to receive the US death penalty. Pike, now 50, was due to be executed on Wednesday but survived two lethal doses of pentobarbital and remains in critical condition. Roberts said it was "really hard sometimes to reconcile the woman in front of me to the crime she had committed". (BBC Wales — Charlie Buckland)

? Sport

? Price v Humphries in the World Grand Prix final

Gerwyn Price will play world number two Luke Humphries in Sunday evening's World Grand Prix final in Leicester, after beating Nathan Aspinall in the last four. Humphries reached his fourth successive Grand Prix final with a **5-3** semi-final win over **James Wade**, averaging **96.92** with ten 180s. "Gezzy's playing well but if I play like that again, it's going to be a cracking game," Humphries said. (BBC Sport)

? Evans takes a six-point title lead into the Sardinia finale

Elfyn Evans goes into Sunday's final four stages of Rally Italia Sardegna leading the World Championship by six points — but he sits fifth in the rally itself. Oliver Solberg, his Toyota team-mate, leads the season-ending rally, with the Welshman unable to match his pace on Saturday; a **Thierry Neuville retirement on stage 11** and a second puncture for Adrien Fourmaux helped Evans's championship position. "We have a long way to go; we have a tough day tomorrow. It is still wide open," said Evans, five times a WRC runner-up. (BBC Sport)

? Welsh derby honours for Dragons as Ospreys slump in South Africa

Dragons produced a superb second-half display to beat Scarlets 38-26 at Rodney Parade for their first United Rugby Championship win of the season. Scarlets led 14-12 at the break through a **Macs Page** brace, but **Rodrigo Martinez** scored within 60 seconds of the restart and Dragons went on to run in six tries — **Elliot Dee** grabbing two, with Anzelo Tuitavuki, Huw Anderson and Rob Hunt also crossing. The Ospreys, meanwhile, **lost 35-19 to the Lions in Johannesburg**, having led 12-10 at half-time, with Keelan Giles admitting "when they got in the red zone they were tough to stop". (Nation.Cymru / PA) Cardiff and Dragons are the early Welsh pacesetters — Cardiff lie **second** and Dragons **sixth**, both unbeaten after two rounds, while Scarlets and Ospreys prop up the table in **14th and 15th**. (BBC Sport — Chris Kirwan, Gareth Griffiths)

? Wales v Denmark tonight

Wales host Denmark at Cardiff City Stadium at 19:45 BST in Nations League A4, eager to build on Thursday's 2-1 win over Norway. Captain **Ben Davies** said Wales are driven "to prove they can thrive" in the top tier: "I thought we laid a good marker down the other night... I think we really got back to what's got us to success." Live on BBC iPlayer, BBC Two Wales, BBC Radio Wales, Radio Cymru and 5 Live. (BBC Sport)

? Fury wants Trump for the ringwalk

Tyson Fury says he will ask US President Donald Trump to lead his ringwalk before fighting Anthony Joshua at Cardiff's Principality Stadium on 11 December. "I'll definitely make that offer to my old buddy, old pal, and we'll see if he's available," said the 38-year-old, though he admitted it was "probably unlikely" given Trump is president. Fury also called the Joshua bout a "warm-up" for a third fight with Oleksandr Usyk. (BBC Sport)

?? Weather

No weather warnings are in force for the UK (BBC Weather, checked 09:45 BST). Cardiff and South East Wales: **today** — sunny intervals and light winds, high **20°C**, low **12°C**; **Monday** sunny intervals with a gentle breeze, 20/12; **Tuesday** misty and light winds, 19/11; **Wednesday** light rain and a gentle breeze, 16/6; **Thursday** sunny intervals, 15/10; **Friday** light rain, 18/9; **Saturday** sunny with a gentle breeze, 16/9. Good conditions for the half marathon, though a little warm by mid-race. (BBC Weather — Cardiff forecast, last updated 08:58)

? Quick Summary

- **Top story** — **Darren Millar** tells the Conservative conference in Birmingham that Plaid is putting **independence before public services** and the FM should "**get on with the day job**", dubbing Rhun ap Iorwerth the "**Plaid Piper of Anglesey**".
- **Politics** — A **More in Common** poll puts **Plaid on 32% (−3)**, **Reform 27% (−2)** and **Labour 18% (+7)** for the Senedd, with **Reform ahead for Westminster** and **Burnham the only leader with positive net approval (+3)**; **Liz Saville Roberts** presses Burnham to **back rejoining the EU now**; **Karl Davies** is Plaid's new national chair.
- **Cardiff Half** — **30,000 runners**, road closures and Cathays station shut from 11:00; **Joyciline Jepkosgei** headlines; **Kiera Hodges** and **Sam Jordan** among those running for causes close to them.
- **Communities** — **Swansea's pupil numbers are forecast to fall 17% by 2032**; **Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur** (1,591 pupils) could be split in two; Porthcawl's **Buccaneer** pub to be restored; **Hafod landfill** smell sensors "cannot detect" nuisance levels; **Cardiff Met buys University Hall**; **Newport's Westgate Hotel** future under discussion.
- **Public safety** — Police open a **direct phone line** for the mother of the **baby girl found on the Menai Strait shore**; the **Llanfairfechan** crash victim is named as **Harrison Glynne Jones, 6**, as a fundraiser nears £20,000.
- **Environment** — Wales' **greyhound racing ban** hits a rehoming **impasse**; a **humpback whale** is spotted off Pembrokeshire; a **Hollywood cottage on Ynys Môn** is repurposed to help **red squirrels**.
- **Culture** — **Barrylesque**, a *Gavin & Stacey* burlesque, comes to Wales Millennium Centre; **Enigma** claims a first for Welsh-language hard sci-fi; **Jonathan Ross's daughter** is learning Welsh on Duolingo.
- **Sport** — **Price v Humphries** in tonight's **World Grand Prix final**; **Evans** leads the WRC by six points into the Sardinia finale; **Dragons 38-26 Scarlets**, **Ospreys 35-19 Lions**; **Wales host Denmark** tonight, 19:45.

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*Method note: compiled in cron mode. SearXNG (:8086) returned the usual index-and-aggregator mix (GOV.WALES, BBC and WalesOnline section pages, a Wikipedia Senedd-election entry, foreign-language spam) — usable only as corroboration, no individual article leads — so the sweep ran through the Playwright fetch service (192.168.178.100:8090, MarkItDown): 12 index/feed pages (BBC Wales, BBC Wales Politics, BBC Cymru Fyw, Nation.Cymru news/home/sport/culture, GOV.WALES main index and announcements, Guardian Wales RSS, BBC Weather and warnings) and 43 article pages, all successful. De-duplicated against the 03 October Welsh file, this morning's UK file, the 04 October Reform UK file and a folder-wide keyword grep: the **FM's "new deal" letter to Burnham and "wings clipped" keynote, minimum alcohol pricing, the More in Common context pieces from late September, the Aberfan 60th-anniversary feature, Cardiff 40-27 Zebre, Wales' Norway win coverage, the Llanfairfechan driver's release and the war-hero photographs** were dropped as already covered; the **Edrica Huws wartime diary, Luke Evans in ITV's The Party, Martha Reed's writers'-scheme win, the scenic-road-trip ranking and the Cardiff Half's extra trains** were repeats too. The BBC Cymru Fyw and BBC Wales versions of the Llanfairfechan naming, the Cardiff Half runners' stories and the Saville Roberts EU call are written up once and tagged to both sources; the baby-on-the-shoreline story is a genuine follow-up to the 02 October discovery, reported as the new police appeal. The GOV.WALES main index carried nothing newer than **1 October** (Town Centre Taskforce) and the*

*announcements index nothing past the **2 October** Sbardun statement; the Guardian's Wales RSS yielded one fresh item (the greyhounds feature, 04 Oct), while its Plaid "new deal" piece dated to 2 October and was already covered.*

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