

ONBOARD



Port of Milford Haven

Spring 2021 | Issue 12
News from the Port of Milford Haven

30 Year Rebirth



Hotel Operator Revealed
Celtic Manor team to run waterfront hotel



Ferry Deal
Irish Ferries here for another decade



Supporting The Bereaved
Meet the Port's charitable cause of the year



Respect The Water
Preparation, preparation, preparation!

Pembroke Dock Marine

A once in a generation opportunity

Pembrokeshire has an opportunity to make a difference on a global scale. Pembroke Dock Marine will build on our county's existing energy experience to create new opportunities for

local businesses and our communities. It comes at a critical time; we must focus on increasing post-Covid opportunities, and we must support the drive to generate clean, green energy. Our port facilities must change to unlock

these opportunities which is why we have submitted a planning application to adapt to the needs of the industry. For more details on the project and the planned changes at Pembroke Port visit www.mhpa.co.uk/pembroke-port-developments

Pembroke Dock Marine is creating local opportunities:

- more full time, year-round, well-paid rewarding careers, giving everyone more choice for their future.
- more long term, stable opportunities for local businesses.
- a stronger local economy that will aid post-covid recovery.

But there's a vital wider benefit; Pembroke Dock Marine will directly tackle the need to generate more clean, green energy.



We see an exceptionally bright future for Pembrokeshire. And we look forward to getting there together.

What is Pembroke Dock Marine?

Pembroke Dock Marine is a collaboration between the Port of Milford Haven, ORE Catapult, Marine Energy Wales and Wave Hub Development Services Limited. It will build upon the region's existing facilities and extensive skill base to establish a world-class base for marine energy and engineering. Based in Pembroke Dock, this £60m project is funded by the Swansea Bay City Deal, the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government, and with private investment. It has the backing of Pembrokeshire County Council, the Welsh Government and the UK Government and represents an incredible opportunity for Pembrokeshire communities.

When complete, the facilities, spaces and services will appeal to many businesses. There is an imminent, significant, and growing opportunity in marine energy and it's already creating jobs and opportunities for local businesses. But we are up against fierce competition. To secure this opportunity for Pembrokeshire we need to ensure our port can accommodate larger devices, and can support developers as they move from design, to build, deployment and long term operations and maintenance.

“There are significant future career opportunities for Pembrokeshire learners and we are adapting our curriculum to prepare. We look forward to training our community's creative, dynamic problem solvers who will take their place in this growth industry and literally help change our world for the better.”

**Barry Walters,
Pembrokeshire College**



Port of Milford Haven



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Hello,

The past year has been one of many challenges but also many opportunities. I think it's fair to say that everyone has been impacted to some degree by the restrictions we've faced during the Covid-19 pandemic, both at work and at home. My colleagues at the Port have continually impressed me with the way they have carried on delivering an excellent, professional service to our customers and wide-ranging stakeholders, keeping major projects on track, ensuring ships moved safely 24/7, and making sure vital goods continued to move between Wales and Ireland by efficiently facilitating the twice-daily ferry sailings between Pembroke Dock and Ireland, whilst at the same time looking out for one another. The global pandemic took its toll on every part of our business, but the team has shown great resilience. Financially, we ended the year with a turnover of £25.2m (down from £28.1m in 2019) and an operating loss of £0.7m (compared to £5.7m profit the previous year). Despite this, there were some positive outcomes - the marina experienced record berth occupancy levels in 2020 at 99%, as did Pembroke Port's Quays 1 and 2, and our property portfolio attracted a record occupancy level of 95%.

Looking after the wellbeing of our staff and the wider community has been central to the way we have worked over the past year. We were pleased to be able to make a significant donation to the Paul Sartori Foundation to help them continue to deliver their services, gave our tenants with charitable status rent free periods and provided in-kind support to PATCH by helping to deliver support parcels across the county. We also donated to local firm CUB3D who were making face visors for staff at Witybush Hospital and other key workers.

Elsewhere, a lot has happened since last March – work on the construction of the new hotel at Milford Waterfront is progressing well and we are delighted to announce that the owners of the prestigious Celtic Manor Resort, The Celtic Collection, will be operating the hotel under their

Tŷ Hotel brand. This is fantastic news for Pembrokeshire and demonstrates to other investors that the county offers great opportunities for growth.

On the south side of the Haven, at Pembroke Port, we have submitted a planning application to create new port infrastructure as part of the £60m City Deal-backed Pembroke Dock Marine (PDM) project. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to transform Pembroke Port into a marine energy hub and make a difference on a global scale. Backed by £13.5m of our own funds, the project has already created a vibrant and growing cluster of eight businesses pooling their expertise from across the globe. This commercial appetite is driven by growing floating wind market opportunities in the Celtic Sea – 10GW off Pembrokeshire's coast and 50GW around the British coastline by 2050, according to The Crown Estate. Competition from Ireland and the rest of Britain is steep, with many northern European ports ready now. If consent is granted this spring, work will begin immediately to deliver a clean energy centre for Pembrokeshire. The first step in creating a green manufacturing cluster.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to mention Brexit. The team at Pembroke Dock Ferry Terminal worked extremely hard to prepare for the 1st January 2021 deadline when the EU transition period ended. Working closely with partner agencies, the necessary changes were completed. Over the coming months we will be focusing our efforts on implementing further changes in time for the new year (2022) when all goods will require Full Customs declarations. And a spot of good news to end – I am pleased to confirm that Irish Ferries have renewed their contract with the Port for a further 10 years. This is a huge statement of confidence in the area and we will continue to work with Irish Ferries to provide a safe and efficient service.

Andy Jones

Andy Jones Chief Executive

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Celtic Manor owners commit to Milford Waterfront

The landscape of Milford Waterfront is changing. The Burnyeats building, or the 'Ice Factory' as it's better known locally, was demolished at the start of December 2020 in order for construction of the new 100-bedroom hotel to begin. The programme was carried out by Wye Valley Demolition and included removing the former weighbridge which was previously used by lorries picking up their catch after it was landed at Milford Fish Docks. Lorries entering the dock were weighed on the weighbridge empty and again when leaving to determine the weight of the catch. Over the course of the demolition project, over 2,500 tonnes of material, including wood, general construction waste, iron and steel was removed and recycled.

For some, the demolition was a bittersweet moment. Former employee Roger Leay (right), and current employees Kevin John and Gary Solomon (below) looked on as the building came down; Roger worked at the Ice Factory for seven years, while Gary and Kevin spent twenty years there between them. Roger has fond memories: "There was a huge mix of fleets coming in and out of Milford - Spanish, French, British, and I got to know all of the skippers. I have to say that one of my most memorable moments was being the operator that delivered ice to the brand new Milford registered trawler 'Brisca' - she was owned by a Milford company with a local crew, that really was a proud moment."

Work on the construction began in January, led by contractors Carter Lauren. The first stage of the project was the piling which was completed ahead of schedule in early February. During the summer the timber frame will go up, followed by external cladding installation and internal fitout works. Once complete in Spring 2022, the hotel will feature a variety of bedroom types, including family rooms, as well as a restaurant and bar, a private dining area and an activity suite.



The secret is finally out!

Following months of speculation, it's been confirmed that the owners of the prestigious Celtic Manor Resort, The Celtic Collection, will be operating the hotel under their Tÿ Hotel brand.

Andy Jones, Chief Executive at the Port, said "The new Tÿ Hotel is great news for Pembrokeshire and represents a watershed moment for Milford Waterfront. The Celtic Collection, with its international standing, shares our passion for the destination – with its fascinating history and stunning marina backdrop – and has joined us to tell a global audience that Milford Waterfront is a fantastic place to visit and to stay."

The Celtic Collection Chief Executive Ian Edwards added "After such a difficult year for tourism and hospitality, it is fantastic to announce this positive news. We know this hotel is going to bring a welcome boost to the local economy and attract a lot of new visitors to Milford Haven.

"This is a brilliant opportunity for The Celtic Collection to expand our horizons and bring our expertise in hotels and hospitality to Pembrokeshire, a region which is world-renowned as a tourist destination thanks to its spectacular coastline and landscape, and its welcoming people.

"We look forward to working with the community and with local suppliers and stakeholders to make a real success of this new hotel and drive more prosperity for the region."

Around 50 permanent jobs will be created in the hotel's operations with many more supported in the supply chain.

Works will continue to be carried out over coming months between the hours of 7:00am and 8:00pm Monday to Friday, and 08:00am to 1:00pm on Saturdays (when required). A pedestrian route is in place to allow people to move safely around the construction site. Once complete, pedestrians will once again be able to walk along the path between the dock wall and the hotel. All of the plans can be viewed on the Milford Waterfront website: www.milfordwaterfront.co.uk



**A new kind of
hospitali-tÿ**

Opening our doors in **spring 2022**



Brexit Preparedness

On 1st January the EU transition period ended. This means that all goods passing to and from the EU now require a Customs declaration and are subject to border controls. Over the past two years, Pembroke Dock Ferry Terminal worked closely with partner agencies to facilitate the changes that were required.

Changes that were made included:

- A Border Control Post to enable UK Border Force to carry out additional physical checks on goods
- An area for a range of Office of Transit functions

Further changes will occur in January 2022 when all goods will require Full Customs declarations.

Shore stations get a makeover

Over the last few months painting and minor repairs have been carried out at shore stations at Great Castle Head, West Blockhouse Light House and Dale Point. The work was carried out by Prioity Property Maintenance on behalf of the Port to prolong the life of the assets, as well as improving the general appearance for everyone who passes them on the coastal path.

Energy Sharing Cluster

A pioneering commercial energy sharing cluster is now up and running at Milford Waterfront and Milford Fish Docks. The Port has been working with green energy supplier Octopus Energy and Community Interest Company Energy Local over the past couple of years to bring together a grouping of sites to share the benefit of local renewable energy assets. Some rooftop solar in the fish docks and dry dock normally gets exported straight to the grid. However, as a result of the smart energy cluster system, it is now being used by the marina buildings, the chiller facility at the fish docks and the lock gates resulting in significant cost and carbon savings.

Tam Bardell, Energy Development Manager at the Port, said "This is a really innovative model and one that we hope to expand across our estate in the future as we want to make better use of renewable energy and reduce our carbon emissions."

For more details on the energy sharing cluster concept contact Holly Tomlinson at Energy Local: holly@energylocal.co.uk



Lockdown learning help for Milford Haven and Pembroke Dock pupils

At the start of this year, the Port made a financial donation to Milford Haven school and Ysgol Harri Tudur to enable them to buy one-hundred Chromebooks to help with lockdown learning.

The Covid-19 pandemic has meant that many students haven't been able to attend school and need to access technology at home, but in some cases this hasn't been possible or families have had to share devices. In response, staff at the Port wanted to reach out and help.

Lauren Williams, Community Engagement Assistant at the Port, said "Focusing on the needs of future generations and developing an environment that is rich with opportunities is at the centre of our thinking. It's essential that our children have access to the tools they need to realise their full potential and we hope these extra devices will help ease the pressures that some families are currently facing, while enabling pupils to enjoy learning online with their teachers and fellow classmates."

← Nick Makin, Ysgol Harri Tudur's School Business Manager, with their new Chromebooks

→ Deputy Head Teacher at Milford Haven School, Rob Berry, and the pupils are delighted with the donation



THE PORT

Milford Marina | 30 Years

It is 30 years since Milford Docks was transformed by the installation of a marina. The project was bold. It was also delivered in record time and heralded a new economic direction for a town whose fortunes – good and bad - had been tied to fishing for 200 years.

In July 1991, anyone visiting the docks in Milford Haven for the first time might have been puzzled by what they saw. As they leant against the smart new rails on the water's edge and looked around, they would have had two contrasting views.

To one side, there was every sign of an industrial landscape – historic fish docks with echoes of the days when Milford was “the place fish comes from”. To the other was the dazzling sight of a thousand fluttering pennants, flags and ensigns of every colour, hung from the masts of tall ships and smaller yachts, all crowded around a brand-new marina.

That year, that week, was a huge moment in the 200-year evolution of Milford Docks. Visitors to the fleet marshalling point of the 1991 Tall Ships Race were witnessing the rebirth of a once gritty, thriving fish docks as a new hybrid – working docks still, but now with a modern leisure boating centre alongside. The completion of the marina in that year would be the first phase of a 3-decade long project that would see the Waterfront become a top visitor destination drawing people from around the UK and far beyond. Many had been sceptical the town could find a certain future beyond a fishing industry that had quite literally been the making of Milford Haven. However, plenty saw the future.

“I always saw the potential for the docks to become a marina,” recalls Adrian Owens, whose father, Trevor, was one of the very first berth holders to put his sailing boat in the new marina. The Owens family had deep roots within the working docks but, like many, knew change needed to come.

“It was an inevitable progression really,” says dad, Trevor. “Whilst we can often get emotional about the halcyon days of yesteryear, the transformation breathed new life into the town.”

Milford Haven Port Authority had bought the docks in 1987. They launched the Milford 2000 project, with EU funding, to turn the main basin into a marina, lined with a promenade and buildings for offices, restaurants and apartments. The funding came through in October 1990 leaving them just 9 months to get ready to host the Tall Ships Race.

“A small army of contractors worked relentlessly to convert the old Victorian docks into a leisure attraction that Milford could be proud of,” says the Port of Milford Haven’s Programme Director, Tim Bownes. “Our engineering team had a huge task to keep as much of the old docks intact as they could, while

making the area a safe and pleasant place to be. There was a lot to do, a hard deadline and no room for delays.”

With paint still drying on the marina HQ, work was completed just as the big day arrived. Thousands came to see off the tall ships that had gathered on the eve of the race. It was the first insight into how the new space would be able to host iconic events, as well as a chance for the public to feel welcome in Milford Docks, a place that had been out of bounds.

“For decades, there had been docks police officers, equipped with warrant cards, keeping the public out. Now, everyone was being welcomed in. There was a huge change in atmosphere,” says Tim.

These uniformed officials symbolised that change as their roles were adapted.

They became staff at the marina, helping berth holders and visiting boaters. Adrian Owens was soon working at the marina, one of the first to find employment among a younger generation of locals adjusting to this New Age.

“A lot of Milford people, particularly the older generation, didn't see the docks as belonging to the Port; to them it was their docks, and we shouldn't be making changes,” he remembers. “However, others welcomed change and the new opportunities it provided.”

For local boatowners, the opportunity to have the safe haven of a marina transformed their sailing lives.

“Once you've experienced the ease of a marina, it's hard to go back to a mooring,” says Trevor Owens. “You have peace of mind that your boat is safe when the weather is bad, and it also extends your season.

Pembrokeshire has a unique appeal, and the sheltered waters of the Haven are great for boating, with access to some of the best sailing locations around the UK.”

The marina rebuilt connections to the Waterway for Milford residents whose relationship with the sea had diminished along with the local fishing fleets. Darrel Walters was another of the first berth holders.

“The new marina was one of the reasons I got involved in boats and the water, as it meant I could keep my boat safe and go out a lot more often,” he said.

Soon, boat owners from across the UK would come to Milford Marina, and as the shoreside buildings went up, local businesses began to move in. Visitors came via water and land, with cruise ships making regular calls. All this brought more tourist spend, more footfall and, 30 years on, the vision outlined back in 1990 of a vibrant waterside destination has become reality.

Happy birthday Milford Marina.

“The transformation breathed new life into the town”

Trevor Owens - first berth holder at Milford Marina.

↑ 30 years on and Milford Waterfront's transformation from gritty docks to a top visitor destination is astonishing.
Credit Owen Howells



↑ Mission accomplished – the successful hosting of the Tall Ships Race in July 1991, even as the paint dried on the Marina office walls, came at the end of an incredible nine-month construction programme.



↑ The old Ice Factory, its brickwork badly damaged by constant freezing temperatures, had to be demolished



Coming Back Stronger

↑ Shayne Busby and Liam Barcoe, owners of Foam restaurant, in front of the new 'Foam Domes', VIP dining spaces on the terrace at Milford Waterfront. Credit - Owen Howells

↑ Do, or donut; there is no try - Defying the pandemic, the owners of Foam have pushed their businesses forward, opening a deli, a commercial bakery and two new restaurants.

Milford Waterfront has changed beyond recognition in the 30 years since the Marina opened. It has evolved into a very special destination with a blend of so many things that make it unique, including a mix of boutique shopping outlets, a vibrant community, a beautiful sense of place and a huge choice of top eateries and cafes. It's been a tough year for everyone. The pandemic has temporarily affected the Port's ability to plan epic events such as the Fish Festival, Sunset Cinema, Fireworks Display and Milford Haven Street Food Festival, all of which have become favourites for locals and visitors alike.

However, few businesses have been harder hit than those in non-essential retail and hospitality. Many families whose livelihoods depend on visitors have struggled. Some have taken the opportunity presented by the hiatus to make changes, improvements or even set up new businesses. As a result, visitors to Milford Waterfront will have even more to look forward to as we slowly emerge from lockdown.

Shayne Busby and Liam Barcoe took over Foam Restaurant in 2020. Despite the pandemic, they decided to invest.

"While many were running for the exits, we were looking for entrances", said Shayne "We thought it was a good time to invest."

Foam has undergone a transformation, headlining its reopening in 2021 with four spectacular dining pods (the Foam Domes) outside on the terrace overlooking the Waterway.

"We wanted to combine that VIP treatment of a private space with the ability for diners to be outside where they all want to be, especially after Covid hit," explained Shayne. "Now they can dine under the stars! Where else could you do that?"

Shayne and Liam also opened the Sugarloaf, a new deli and bakery, next door. The donuts have proved a massive hit with people who happen to be passing. To supply their growing

number of outlets (they have two new restaurants planned, including one in Narberth), the ambitious partners also opened a commercial bakery in the Fish Docks, with plans to run a live demonstration kitchen upstairs.

"There's risk in anything," Shayne rationalised when challenged on his aggressive plans. "No one can predict what will happen next. All you can do is control the 'controllables'. We've worked hard to get structure in the business."

The list of businesses around Milford

Waterfront that have taken the opportunity to invest and expand in this tough climate is impressive. Milford Museum has been revamped. Coco's Restaurant has had a refit after the new owners took over in August last year. To celebrate its 30th birthday, the Marina's first restaurant, Martha's Vineyard has also

been given a makeover. New arrivals include Talouies café, The Green Genie vegetarian and vegan bistro and Madison's bar and restaurant, which brings a 1930's American prohibition-era theme to the Waterfront. New shops include CUB3D, an independent, environmentally friendly fashion outlet.

There was welcome news that The Celtic Collection will be opening their new TÛ Hotel on the Waterfront, boosting bed numbers and creating an even more powerful draw for explorers wanting to base their Pembrokeshire holidays here. Shayne Busby said the influx of new businesses can only be good news for those already there.

"There's huge potential – it's become a great destination for good food, a high quality 'strip' as the Americans would say, and more bums on seats means more footfall and that's what we all need. It's a very exciting time."

The Waterfront is buzzing with anticipation. Like a fabulous sauce that's sat on the back burner, and with its rich ingredients of great shops, bars, restaurants and cafes, the whole area has just been simmering with more and more promise throughout the lockdown.

"It's a very exciting time!"
Shayne Busby, co-owner of Foam Restaurant.

The Eternal Optimist

Steve Edwards took up the newly created post of Commercial Director at the Port just as the UK entered its first lockdown. An eternal optimist, he's undaunted by the challenge and is just glad to be coming home to West Wales at last.

"The first date my wife and I went on was at Barafundle Bay. It is one of the best beaches in the world," says Steve Edwards, the Port of Milford Haven's new commercial director. "It's a hidden gem. Sixteen years later I feel like I've found another hidden gem here in Pembrokeshire, in the Trust Port."

Not many people could pull off this enthusiastic parallel, but Steve can. He is the kind of person who sees exciting potential in everything he puts his mind to. He is a sports coach (he teaches adults to swim amongst other things) and a passionate mentor to his three boys. In fact, he seems to carry so much positivity that he spends much of his time finding a home for it in the people around him.

A West Walian to the core, Steve Edwards comes to the Port of Milford Haven as Commercial Director and, in doing so, feels he's finally been able to come home. Educated in Management Science at Swansea University, Steve began his career during a tough period for the Welsh and UK economies, working for utility company British Gas as a chartered accountant. He quickly went on to become one their youngest senior managers ever, and, when the monolithic utility firm was broken up, went to work for Transco. After a stint at General Electric in Caerphilly, he returned to Newport to work for the newly created Wales and West Utilities in 2005.

"I have spent the last 13 plus years driving up and down the M4 and now I have the opportunity to stay in my community and use my time and my talent for the benefit of West Wales. That is very important to me," says Steve. "Previously, I worked for a company that saw its dividends leave this country and now I come to the Port of Milford Haven, a Trust Port with no shareholders, where all the benefit of its activities stays in Pembrokeshire." Steve took up his post just as lockdown began in 2020, but you are unlikely to hear him complain of the challenges Covid has thrown his way. That is definitely not his way. In fact, he is one of these people for whom the function or challenge of any job seems somehow subordinate to the purpose and ambition it might deliver. That's not to say he is not focused on doing the job well. His CV demonstrates his outstanding capability. But

with a mind to the potential regional benefits a commercially successful Port can bring, he has his eyes fixed firmly on the big picture and working with others to make things happen here.

"There's a great sense of ambition from the Welsh Government and from local councillors to really invest in this asset along with us, because they understand about the regional growth opportunities that are here."

"I am really optimistic. Pembrokeshire is incredible. When I go home and see Cornwall and Devon on TV, I tell you now, we have everything they have, and more! On top of hospitality and tourism, we also are an energy gateway supporting UK homes and families and looking at the enormous potential for energy diversification," he enthuses.

Thanks to his background, Steve is very much in his comfort zone looking at energy projects and working with strategic partners in that sector. But how does he feel about hospitality and tourism, which also falls within his brief as commercial director and is of vital strategic importance to the Port business?

"It was daunting at first. I've been delighted with the support and expertise I have had from the team. They really welcomed me with open arms. If you have the will to learn - and one of my goals is to learn something new every day - it's amazing what you can achieve if you just listen and collaborate. In fact, I have found that part of the job the biggest inspiration, just in terms of how it has broadened my horizons."

Steve is very much a family man. A keen cyclist, as well as a rugby and football coach, he says his life is centred around his wife and boys.

"Since I was young, all I ever wanted to do was to be a dad. I want to be a good father and help our children to be whatever they want to be," he says, with disarming honesty. "And if they can do that in West Wales, I'll be delighted!"



CUSTOMER NEWS

HST Marine expands into Pembrokeshire

Offshore vessel company HST Marine has established a base at Pembroke Port after recognising the opportunities in the area's marine renewables sector.

HST provides solutions in shipping, vessel management and chartering to industries throughout Europe from their headquarters in Swansea. After learning about the Pembroke Dock Marine project at an industry event last year, they now occupy an office and warehouse space in the heart of the development at Pembroke Port where they store crew transfer vessels, RHIBs and workboats.

"We see Pembroke Port as a key location for HST in the coming years, we will be investing heavily in modern zero emission workboats and see the region as a leader in green innovation like ourselves in the workboat / renewables sector. A local workforce is key for our expansion in the region."

Tim James, Head of Commercial and Energy at the Port of Milford Haven, has welcomed the team: "HST Marine are bringing credible expertise and equipment to the growing cluster of specialists attracting year-round, well-paid employment opportunities into our community."

↓ (L-R) Tim James from the Port with the HST Marine team Ian Oxford (CFO), Chris Monan (COO) and Tom Nevin (CEO)



Williams Shipping supports renewables at Pembroke Port

Leading marine and logistics company Williams Shipping is embracing the renewable energy sector in Pembrokeshire with the launch of a new website demonstrating the services it can provide to the fast-growing industry.

With bases in Pembroke Port, Southampton and Aberdeen, the family-run firm provides vessel charter and marine and port services through a fleet of vessels, barges, marine equipment and crawler cranes together with onward transportation and logistics services across Wales and around the UK and Irish coast.

Managing Director, Philip Williams, said "We have unparalleled experience in supporting and servicing renewable off-shore industry innovations, including wave, tide and wind energy projects. We look forward to a long and supportive relationship with Pembroke Dock, its people and businesses and in particular to playing our part in the development of renewables as a sustainable resource for people everywhere."

For more information visit www.pembrokemarinerenewables.co.uk



Irish Ferries Signs 10 Year Deal

↑ *Blue Star 1 has replaced the Isle of Inishmore*

Irish Ferries has reconfirmed its commitment to Pembroke Dock with the signing of a new 10-year contract. This marks a huge statement of confidence in the Rosslare-Pembroke Dock crossing.

Commercial Director at the Port Steve Edwards commented "We pride ourselves in providing a safe and efficient service to Irish Ferries and are pleased to confirm that we have renewed our partnership with them. The Pembroke Dock to Rosslare route is the primary south Wales freight corridor and we will continue to work with Irish Ferries to maintain this important ferry service, recognising the contribution it makes in terms of jobs, tourism and culture."

The company also recently announced that the new passenger ship, Blue Star 1, has replaced the Isle of Inishmore on the twice-daily Pembroke Dock to Rosslare service, the fastest Roro passenger ship operating between Britain and Ireland. It has the capacity to carry up to 1,500 passengers, 100 freight vehicles and up to 700 cars depending on freight volume.

Back in time for vintage-themed fine dining

You open two new restaurants in a stunning location and then four weeks later the country goes into lockdown. That was the situation Ceri-Louise Phillips and her partner Neil Jones found themselves in last December after throwing open the doors to the vintage themed Madison's Bar & Restaurant at Milford Waterfront and The Green Genie - Vegetarian & Vegan Bistro located just next door. Following a temporary pause caused by the pandemic, Ceri-Louise and Neil have since reopened for outdoor dining and look forward to welcoming back former customers and attracting new ones who may not be aware of what's on offer.



Madison's is a truly unique dining experience. Once inside you are transported back to the 1920s and 30s combining delicious food, an exquisite cocktail menu and a warm welcoming interior with a twist. Ceri-Louise said "Everything is reused and reloved with vintage oddities and a quirky atmosphere. I just love the past and bringing the past back to life and we hope that once you step inside you can forget about all your worries and just enjoy your surroundings. Besides the interior, we have an incredible chef who cooks everything fresh to order, it's a real fine dining experience."

Speaking of food, if you're not a meat eater then head next door to The Green Genie, a family friendly restaurant (and family includes dogs!), where there's a mouth-watering menu featuring over twenty dishes all cooked to order, as well as an impressive selection of vegan wines, beers and ciders. The Green Genie's menu is also available in Madison's.

Commenting on why Ceri-Louise chose Milford Waterfront as the location for her new ventures, she explained "There's a lovely ambience here and on a sunny day it's just gorgeous, plus there are already a lot of eateries around the marina so we all support each other. I'm really looking forward to a summer season when we can hopefully all enjoy eating in the cafes and restaurants again."

You can find out more on the businesses' Facebook pages. (Indoor dining will be available in line with government guidelines).

Engineering Pedigree

↓ Pembrokeshire's future? – Jenkins and Davies welder apprentices Emily Watkins and Dereice Raihman, both locals, represent the future of the county's skilled workforce that could ensure energy industry investment keeps coming to the Waterway. Credit - Owen Howells

“You get a real sense of pleasure when you see young apprentices going out and getting their first mortgage,” said Marc Scourfield. “You really feel you’ve helped that person along in their life.”

Marc is Operations Director at Pembrokeshire mechanical engineering firm Jenkins and Davies. His keenness to talk about the company's apprenticeships, and their role building careers around the Waterway, gives a hint of some of the spirit that makes his company quite special.

Messrs Jenkins and Davies - Wyn and George - were two Pembrokeshire engineers who saw the future when the first refineries appeared on the Waterway. In 1971, they decided to team up, giving their names to a business that would serve energy companies' needs for the decades to come.

Their story is the story of how local supply chain businesses, and the talent they employed, became at once dependent on and, through their accomplishments, critical to the UK's energy capital. It's also the story of how multiple generations of Pembrokeshire engineers would become the fixers of choice for an industry across the UK. When they started trading there were five refineries on the Waterway. However, as the industry contracted, J&D reacted; their teams packed up their tools and hit the road.

So, while most people in Pembrokeshire will never have heard of them, for the last half-century, Jenkins and Davies have been bringing home wages from contracts in Pembrokeshire and across the UK. They have another office and workshop on the other side of the country in Lincolnshire, a county that's still home to two refineries. This export of engineering talent is important for Pembrokeshire and the wider national economy, as it draws money back from an increasingly overseas-owned energy industry.

“Now, most of our revenue comes from outside of Pembrokeshire. We bring it back in to Wales and are pumping around £8m back into the local economy - local families and businesses” Richie says.

J&D prizes its productivity and skills (“we get a job done”, as Richie puts it) above all. Despite the decline in refining of hydrocarbons locally, the company's skills remain in demand. It has nurtured a pool of experience and talent, with around 120 staff on the books, along with an extensive list of tried and tested semi-core labour, who are brought in as and when the workload increases. This deep-reaching talent continues to pull energy sector spend back into Pembrokeshire.

Around 10 years ago, the company was sold. While it retains its trading name (Techno Engineering trading as Jenkins & Davies), the new owners, parent company Celtic Engineering, have overseen a period of strong growth, with revenues tripling to around £22m in 2019/20.

“Part of the reason our customers keep coming back is because of Pembrokeshire labour – the people we employ,” says Richie. “We are only as good as the people we field. They are our strength.”

There is still plenty of work to be had in the county. Since the demise of four local refineries, billions of pounds of inward investment have brought two LNG terminals and a gas-fired power station in their place. These have ensured a steady stream of contracts for engineering firms, such as Jenkins and Davies, on everyone's speed dial thanks to their three generations of experience serving the energy sector.

MD, Richie Barnard, who is from Waterston, was born in the shade of the Gulf Refinery (now the site of Dragon LNG Terminal). Following a career in the Royal Navy, his father returned to work on the tugs when oil arrived, so Richie's life was defined by the presence of the energy industry in Pembrokeshire. Now in his 26th year at Jenkins and Davies, he warns the Port's status as a critical part of the UK's energy network is partly a gift, and partly earned through hard work, but it does not come as our birth right.

“We still have the best waterway in the world. We still have the potential for investment to come to Pembrokeshire. We have the skillsets. However, unless we invest, unless we adapt, I fear for the future of our younger generations. They will have to move away.”

“I have a vision. I have a passion. I see J&D adapting and going from strength to strength,” continues Richie with conviction. “The future is heading towards renewables; I have no doubt about that. I wrote a letter in support of the [Pembroke Dock Marine] investment around Pembroke Port. Any investment in infrastructure that can bring jobs here is a good thing.”

Marc, whose roots in the oil industry are no less profound than Richie's, is married to the niece of founder, Wyn Jenkins. He still talks to Wyn frequently and gets an almost unique perspective of how small, clever local engineering firms have built an international reputation in the energy industry, and how they've had to evolve.

“Wyn feels very proud of where we are now. We often talk about it. I get advice off him occasionally,” he laughs. “But times have changed. You don't get men going out working 16-hour days, 7 days a week anymore. Our business has got to move with the times as well. You don't win jobs on price. Safety is fundamental. 90% of a contract tender is based on safety and quality, and that's how it should be.”

Nowhere is this more important than in the nuclear industry. The construction of Hinkley Point Power Station represents an important opportunity for the firm. “It's a very specialised industry,” explains Marc Scourfield. “It's a lot more demanding than oil and gas and you almost need to ringfence resources specifically to that,” he continues.

Richie agrees: “We may even need to set up new premises, which will require quite a bit of investment. But as I said, investment is vital for our future.”

With that, the conversation returns to apprenticeships. “We take around four apprentices each year,” says



Part of the reason our customers keep coming back is because of Pembrokeshire labour. They are our strength.

Richie Barnard, Managing Director, Jenkins and Davies.

Marc. "Sometimes you look back at the paperwork and it's heart-warming to see names of people who were apprentices, now being masters of their craft nurturing the next batch of apprentices."

Richie, too, feels part of his role as managing director is to ensure that the half-century of nurtured talent and collective experience developed by companies like Jenkins and Davies can continue to serve Pembrokeshire and its people for generations to come.

"I've come up from the ground floor," says Richie. "I was on the tools. We need to invest in the training of young people in Pembrokeshire, to continue that heritage of hard work and excellence that we have here, in order to ensure there is work for our children in the future."



↑ Jenkins and Davies directors, Marc Scourfield (L) and Richie Barnard (R), feel positive about the future but warn Pembrokeshire's Waterway needs investment to remain a powerhouse of the regional economy. Credit - Owen Howells



↑ 50 years ago, Wyn Jenkins and George Davies saw the future was not just working for the emerging energy industry, but also to make the energy industry work for Pembrokeshire.



↑ Same acid settlers, different millennium. Jenkins and Davies have long been the go-to engineers for the refining industry. They were involved in a major overhaul at Pembroke Refinery in 1982 and again in 2021. Credit – Jenkins and Davies

Nothing says experience like being asked to be part of the same multi-million-pound job twice in five decades. In 1982, Jenkins and Davies were contracted to help install an acid settler unit at Pembroke Refinery. The vessels are a key part of the process equipment for Valero's alkylation unit, at the heart of the refining process for our petrol, diesel and jet fuel requirements. In 2021 they were back for the repeat business.

The giant units were held at Pembroke Port, next to the historic Sunderland Hangars, prior to their installation downriver, leading many locals to speculate they were part of some elaborate film set. (Rumours were probably fuelled by the fact they appeared exactly 40 years after the iconic Star Wars movie spaceship, the Millennium Falcon, was constructed in secrecy in the one of the hangars next door.)

Beyond Grief

When Maya Sonvico was 12, her father died from cancer. When she was 20, her brother Gianni, a young barrister based in London, went missing. His body was later recovered from the River Thames. While the loss of loved ones is an inevitable part of life, what often defines the impact on us is not just the who, but also when and how that loss occurs. Maya's experience stands as testimony to that.

"As a teenager it is very difficult because you're going through a lot of change," says Maya on the loss of her father. "There's a lot of heightened emotion at that age. Grief can fester if it is not dealt with and cause ongoing difficulties. It was so different with the loss of my brother... unexpected, sudden, unexplainable... and yet I didn't have to think 'how am I going to get through this; how will I do this?' as I did when my dad died."

In 2007, following the death of her father, Maya was referred to the Sandy Bear bereavement service in Pembrokeshire. The service had been running since 1996 and was developed by Pembrokeshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. Maya was supported by Anita Hicks and Karen Codd, two highly experienced nurses who would later become instrumental to the future of the service.

"They gave my grief the gravity it deserved, but made it clear it wasn't the only thing they saw when they talked to me," explains Maya. "They gave me space to be a normal teenager whilst also helping me deal with the loss. They said: 'this loss is a big part of you but there is so much more to you as well.'"

Maya believes that her mum's timely request to have her referred to Sandy Bear was instrumental in helping her in later life. "If I hadn't had Sandy Bear, I think it could have got a lot worse for me. For some, that [loss] can ruin their whole life," explains Maya.

However, in 2016 funding was withdrawn from the Sandy Bear service. Anita and Karen felt it had to carry on. With help from colleagues, previous users and friends they took on the challenge and in 2019 resigned from their roles at the NHS and went on to become the clinical leads for the service. It obtained charitable status in 2020.

"What we know is that if grief goes unresolved in children, 30% will go on to suffer from mental health problems," says Anita, who is now the charity's Clinical Lead. "We also know that 3% of those will go on to commit suicide," she continues. "What we have here at Sandy Bear is so special, so unique, so important, that I think every child in Wales should have access to this."

Ceri Crichton is the charity's Development Lead. "We have more than twenty volunteers now and are looking to recruit trustees. We believe that there is no other service like this in Wales. How we reach more bereaved children and young people across the country is a key question and one we are exploring very carefully."

Perhaps the best outcome any of us can hope for after suffering a serious injury is to be able to return to the life we lived before without long term effects. Should we hope to do that after bereavement? No, says Maya. But what Sandy Bear taught her was even more powerful. "I learned not to think about who I want to be, but that it's ok to be who I am," she explains. "Their help impacted enormously on me. I am a psychology graduate and for my doctorate I hope to research bereavement. I think that is because Sandy Bear has shown me you can take something awful that's happened to you and make something positive out of it."

Many of those helped by the team in the early days have returned to act as volunteers. Maya is now an ambassador for Sandy Bear.

In their own words, the charity believes every child and young person should have the opportunity to thrive and to be the very best that they can be. The feedback the charity has received points to their remarkable success doing just that.

For more information about Sandy Bear and to find out how you can support their work, go to their website sandybear.co.uk.

↓ *Team of two - Maya and her mum Karen have supported each other through the loss of a husband, a father, a son and brother. Maya is now an ambassador for Sandy Bear.*



↑ *Walks form a part of the therapeutic days Sandy Bear holds each year for bereaved families to come together for remembrance and to have fun.*

“People say funny, weird things to you and it's ok to laugh at that, it's ok to be angry. There shouldn't be any pressure to be a certain way about death and grief.”

Maya Sonvico, Ambassador for Sandy Bear Children's Bereavement Charity.



COMMUNITY NEWS

The Port of Milford Haven supports a wide range of charities and community organisations each year through its Community Fund and other initiatives such as its Scholarship Scheme. In addition to this, funds have been set aside to allow additional support to organisations that have been affected by Covid-19.



↑ Sara Aicken from the Port with Trustees of the community centre and Pembrokeshire County Council.

Small steps to sustainability

The Community Fund committee was proud to help Hubberston and Hakin Community Centre purchase solar panels as part of a wider project to become more sustainable. The community centre offers access to a large number of clubs and organisations who will all benefit for many years to come.



↑ The Port's Lauren Williams with Pembroke Boro AFC and their new goal posts.

Active in the community

The Port of Milford Haven's Community Fund has funded many local sports groups in recent months, including Pembroke Boro AFC, Merlins Bridge AFC, Monkton Swifts and Cresselly Cricket Club. The funding allows the teams to purchase equipment including bats and balls, goal posts, new training equipment, kit and much more.



↑ Lauren Williams from the Port with members of the Milford Youth Matters team.

Port renews partnership with Milford Youth Matters

The Port of Milford Haven and Milford Youth Matters have once again renewed their partnership to continue youth provision in the town. The two organisations have worked together for several years delivering successful projects such as Under the Bridge and WAVE and will be continuing to co-ordinate initiatives that help to support young people in having a voice to shape their own future, to increase community safety and to reduce anti-social behaviour. The charity provides a youth service every Friday night thanks to a financial donation by the Port. By offering an indoor venue and use of its land around Milford Waterfront, the Port has enabled the charity to provide a targeted, detached service for 11-18 year olds.

Scholarship Awards

The Port's annual Scholarship Scheme attracted a high standard of applications again in late 2020. Following a rigorous shortlisting and interview process, the panel selected four Pembrokeshire students to receive financial awards of £1,500, as well as work placements at the Port.

This year the scholarships go to Ella Staden-Coats from Treffgarne, Joshua Price from St Davids, Menna John from Maenclochog and Sam Morris from Dale. During the virtual interviews, they all impressed the panel with their academic and personal achievements, as well as their ambitions for the future.

Ella is studying English Literature with Writing at the University of the West of England in Bristol, Joshua is at Lancaster University studying Medicine and Surgery, Menna is on a Geography degree at the University of Liverpool and Sam is at the University of Bath studying Economics.

Sitting on the panel were Chairman of the Port, Chris Martin; Maxine Thomas, Designated Senior Lead for Safeguarding and Learner Wellbeing at Pembrokeshire College and Headteacher of Haverfordwest High VC School Jane Harries.

Chris commented: "It was a privilege to speak to so many talented young people from Pembrokeshire, they are a credit to themselves and their families. I have no doubt they will all excel at university and into the future when they pursue their career aspirations. We hope the scholarships from the Port will assist them, not only financially, but through the valuable experience and skills they will gain from the work placements."

The 2021/22 Scholarship Scheme will open for applications in the Autumn, for more information visit www.mhpa.co.uk/scholarships.

Respect The Water, Stay Safe

As the weather starts to improve, many of us are thinking about life on the ocean wave. Well, maybe not the ocean, but certainly the stunning waters of Pembrokeshire. While we haven't been able to enjoy as much sailing, kayaking (or whichever activity floats your boat) as we would have liked over the past year or so, it's hoped that many of us will be able to get out and about more as time goes on. With this in mind, it's important to remember that the water can be a potentially dangerous place and it's essential that you're fully prepared. Here are a few tips to ensure you stay safe on the water:

- Check your boat before heading onto the water
- Check the tides and weather forecast
- Wear a lifejacket ensuring you carry out annual checks
- Use a kill cord making sure that it works at the start of each day or session and look for signs of wear
- Plan your journey - if possible, let someone else know what your plans are and when you expect to return
- Always carry a mobile phone and VHF radio to call for help if needed
- Do not consume alcohol. There is a waterway byelaw that means it is illegal to navigate while drunk, therefore you could be prosecuted
- If you are on the Milford Haven Waterway, seek advice or help from the Water Ranger
- Sign up to receive Notice To Mariners alerts on the Port's website
- Respect the environment and the wildlife within it

You can check tide times, subscribe to Notice to Mariners alerts and find out more about safety on the water online at www.mhpa.co.uk

The RNLI's website has some excellent safety advice covering everything from lifejackets to cold water shock. Visit rnli.org/safety

Don't dice with death

The water may look inviting and there are plenty of ways to have fun in, on and around it, but jumping (or tombstoning) is strictly prohibited at Milford Marina.

Each year staff at the Port have to stop groups of young people 'jumping in' from the dock walls and Hakin Point and are often confronted by threatening and challenging behaviour.

Tombstoning is an extremely dangerous activity that can be fatal and the areas around the marina and Hakin Point are particularly hazardous. As well as being a busy shipping and fishing area, there are many hidden dangers beneath the water such as tyres and shopping trolleys which could cause life changing injuries. As well as submerged objects, cold water shock is a very real danger and one of the biggest causes of drowning. Even strong, confident swimmers can be affected.

The Port will not hesitate to enforce its bye-laws, which include fines and banning notices, in order to stop people from risking their lives.

→ New posters have been launched to warn people about the dangers of tombstoning



Wales' future is our business

Wales is a small nation, but we can't be accused of lacking ambition. We're often acted upon but are rarely passive where our own country's future (or Six Nations Championship) is at stake. Our democratically elected Senedd already holds lots of the levers of control that can help our society move towards sustainable prosperity. But which way do we go? And how do we get there?

There's a role for our political leaders to lay out a vision, build support and put policy in place to make that vision become reality. There's a role, too, for each and every one of us as individuals to do our part. But there's also a role for business, and as public finances come under increasing pressure, maybe it's time to talk more about what businesses can do, and are already doing, to deliver social good and future prosperity.

Companies are committed to their own long-term survival. The dry accounting expression "going concern" explains their drive to manage their resources to ensure long term viability, to keep going. However, more and more, companies have lined up with society's wider visions and goals, understanding that they have a contract not only with their customers, staff, suppliers or shareholders, but with the community in which they do business. They take on this social responsibility knowing that, in order to keep going, they need stable, sustainable conditions in which to trade. They also do it because companies are no more than the sum of their own people. Their moral and social compasses are set by the men and women who work there.

The Port of Milford Haven is a Trust Port. You'll have heard us mention this a lot, because our trust port status is really important to us. In fact, it's fundamental to how we interact with our communities. We're here to operate the Port business safely, profitably and sustainably in order to ensure this unique asset continues to work for the benefit of future generations here in Pembrokeshire.

When our Government passed the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act in 2015, they made it a requirement for public bodies in Wales to - among other things - think about the long-term impact their decisions have on society.

As a private business, the Port is not bound by the Act. However, few businesses of our size in Pembrokeshire are in a better place to help meet many of the goals this legislation hopes to achieve and do their bit to support the spirit of the Act. There are obvious examples:

We exist in part to help build prosperity within the communities that we operate. When we invest, our goal, beside securing our ongoing operational effectiveness, is that public good is delivered, whether it's through creating jobs,

creating opportunities for local businesses or attracting inward investment. We have a duty to maintain and protect the valuable ecosystems around the Waterway and we strive to ensure resilience is built within our communities, especially where they face economic hardship and need to adapt to the threat of climate change. We passionately support projects and charities that promote community cohesion and create safety nets for those in need.

These are just some of the priorities laid out by the Welsh Government. At a UK policy level, Government has committed us to some pretty bold targets to reduce carbon emissions so that we are net zero emitters of CO2 by 2050. The Port of Milford Haven is a key and willing agent for the delivery of these goals here in Wales. Our investment in Pembroke Dock Marine will help to speed up the development of a flourishing marine renewable energy industry, set to make a significant contribution to help us to hit those targets.

Here in Pembrokeshire, our status as the energy capital of the UK underpins the local economy and attracts lots of investment. However, with the help of Welsh Government, Pembrokeshire County Council and Visit Pembrokeshire, our county's tourism sector is becoming more and more important. The industry here is developing a great sense of teamwork and a real confidence in

its own unique offering. This is so important, because a visitor economy can deliver huge benefits to communities across Pembrokeshire but must be managed in a way that is sustainable and in tune with the exceptional natural gifts with which our county is blessed. Again, the Port is putting all its support behind the delivery of the Destination Management Plan and investing in Milford Waterfront in a way we hope can be an exemplar of policy made reality.

The bottom line is this: businesses in Pembrokeshire can be, and are already, agents of public good, very much in line with those goals set by Government. You only need to read the article about Jenkins and Davies [p. 10] to see how the passion of a homegrown business powers it to go out across the UK and secure wages for Pembrokeshire families, whilst committing to nurture more local talent for the future. This goes beyond its simple duty to its shareholders to remain a going concern.

We need to have more faith in businesses that they can help deliver on society's goals. Old divisions between public and private sector have become meaningless. The challenges we face, whether from climate change, social exclusion or economic uncertainty, do not discriminate. They affect us all.

↓ *Business invests in Pembrokeshire's future - Emily Watkins in her 4th year of an apprenticeship at Jenkins and Davies.*



Feedback

You can keep up to date with what's happening at the Port of Milford Haven on social media, as well as in the news. Not only do we welcome feedback, we encourage it.

If you would like a letter to be published in OnBoard please write or email using the details provided. We cannot guarantee every letter will be printed but will respond either way.

Contact us...

01646 696100
communications@mhpa.co.uk
www.mhpa.co.uk

📧 @mh_port
📍 PortofMilfordHaven

1

COCO'S | A vibrant restaurant serving mouth-watering meals and delicious cocktails in an informal, relaxed city-style venue.

2

COSTA COFFEE | One of the nation's favourite coffee shops renowned for serving a full range of hot and cold drinks, along with a selection of light bites too.

3

CROW'S NEST CAFÉ
A family-friendly café offering a selection of tasty foods including afternoon tea packages made fresh to order 7 days a week.

4

FOAM | Known for serving 'Instagrammable' breakfasts as well as a tasty lunch and dinner menu with uninterrupted panoramic views of the historic Milford Haven Waterway.

5

IMPASTO PIZZA BAR
An essential spot for those seeking the very best of authentic Italian cooking, combining Italian and Pembrokeshire produce to tantalise your taste buds.

7

MARTHA'S VINEYARD | An original family-run bar and restaurant with a large outdoor terrace overlooking Milford Marina renowned for serving fresh, tasty food with a strong influence from local suppliers.

6

MADISON'S BAR & RESTAURANT
A 1920s and 30s themed restaurant combining delicious food with a unique dining experience for all.

Eat

at Milford Waterfront

There's lots on the menu at Milford Waterfront

With a fantastic choice of places to eat, you'll be spoilt for choice. Whether you fancy a freshly made pizza, fresh doughnuts, the best seafood or fancy cocktails, be sure to pay us a visit this summer!

Here are all the places you can eat at Milford Waterfront



8

PHOENIX BOWL & PIRATE PETE'S ADVENTURE PLAY
A lively 10-pin bowling centre with a soft play area and fantastic, family-friendly food.

9

SPINNAKER CAFÉ | Serving delicious and affordable homemade meals with an ever-changing display of freshly baked cakes.

10

SUGAR LOAF | A local deli and bakery serving a range of mouth-watering food including delicious sandwiches, tasty pastries and doughnuts made at Milford Waterfront.

11

TALOUQUES | Specialising in homemade light bites, cakes and desserts with a great view overlooking Milford Marina.

12

THE GALLEY CAFÉ
A local café serving homemade classic dishes with their tremendous value menu including toasts and all-day breakfasts.

13

THE GREEN GENIE | Offering an array of homemade vegetarian and vegan dishes cooked in a relaxed and stylish setting.

14

THE HARBOURMASTER | Bar and restaurant with a large outdoor terrace overlooking Milford Marina serving a variety of dishes and an extensive drinks menu.

15

THE LOUNGE | Serving modern and homemade tasty items on the food menu, washed down with refreshing drinks in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

16

THE SCOOP ICE CREAM PARLOUR | Home to delicious ice cream, made at Milford Waterfront, served with waterway views.

All businesses featured will be opening in line with Welsh Government coronavirus guidelines at the time and will have their own measures in place for customers to follow. All information is correct at time of going to print.



www.milfordwaterfront.co.uk/summereats

#visitmilfordhaven

Milford Waterfront
Where the land meets the sea