

ONBOARD



Port of Milford Haven

December 2015 | Issue 2
News from the Port of Milford Haven



STORM FORCE

When the going gets rough, the Port keeps going

Port of Milford Haven Pilot Launch Picton heads to sea to collect a port pilot of a departing oil tanker - Photo Alex Brown



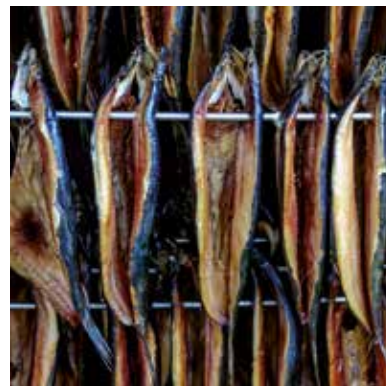
PROFILE - RIDING THE WAVES

The skipper out in all weathers keeping the Port open for business



A CUTE ANXIETY

Hands up who's worried about Global Warming



SMOKING!

Fish done up like kippers? The smokehouse is back in action



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FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



A word from the Chief Executive, Alec Don

Welcome to our second edition of Onboard.

Winter is definitely here and, as I write this, Storm Abigail is leading in what some are already predicting to be a season of challenging weather: the sighting on our shores of a migrating Siberian swan nearly a month too early is said to presage a hard winter.

The bird is a fitting herald for this edition too. It focuses on the hard work of men and women going about their business in the port in all weathers. As you hear the wind-driven rain hammer on your windows imagine what it must be like for the crews of the fishing boats and trawlers peering out of their wheelhouses as they head out to sea to make their living.

Think too of the oil tankers and ferries heaving into Milford Haven on huge seas in nearly all weathers. They are carrying their vital cargos into the Port that keep Britain warm and her goods and people moving across the UK, the Irish Sea and beyond.

On the land, we've been doing a great deal of work alongside community organisations and new businesses around the Port this year. This collaboration with entrepreneurs, growing businesses and other local stakeholders is key to fulfilling our role as a Trust Port.

If you received this magazine through your letterbox then you are definitely one of our public stakeholders by virtue of the fact you live near the Port. You may also be one of the countless businesses whose livelihood depends on the existence of an efficiently run port operation.

Engagement with our stakeholders is critical and there are a lot of ways for you to engage and get onboard. Look out for our annual consultative meetings or link up with us on social media. We need to hear your views about our business and about yours.

As a Trust Port, we believe we can only get to where we all want to be if we work together. That is true both within our organisation and in our work with our business partners and our stakeholders. So don't stand on the sidelines – come and join in and let's make it a success together.

And don't forget, if you have an eye to the darkening skies you can also visit probably the single most popular page on our website (www.mhpa.co.uk): the weather page.

Have a very merry Christmas!

Alec Don Chief Executive



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Port streamlines waste to energy shipments

Pembroke Port's cargo handling team completed their third shipment of waste to energy cubes this November, and in record time.

3,500 tonnes of domestic waste, packaged in 2,500 plastic wrapped cubes were moved from the Potters Waste depot at Gate Four to Gate One and onto a waiting ship in just over eleven hours. The first shipment back in August took 17 hours to load.

Operations Supervisor George Worrall praised his team. "They've worked flat out and have done a fantastic job,"

he said. "The guys from Potters were extremely efficient too and all this was done in some pretty awful weather," he added.

Storm force winds also delayed the departure of the waste cargo ship, Novomar. However, she was eventually able to deliver the cubes to the Swedish port of Västerås where they will be incinerated to produce heat and power for local residents.

↓ *Not rubbish at all - streamlining at Pembroke Port shaved 6 hours off loading times*



↑ *Seagrass (zostera marina) and maerl take years to grow but can be destroyed by anchors*

New moorings reduce visiting boats' footprint

An underwater algae made rare by centuries of harvesting for fertilizer has been afforded new protections by a partnership between boat users, conservationists and the Port of Milford Haven.

Maerl and a unique seagrass that are found in a few special locations along the estuary have already been safeguarded by voluntary agreements that reduce activities that could damage them such as dredging, fishing and anchoring. However new mooring buoys laid this summer in Longoar Bay will allow boats to stop at this popular haven without dropping anchors that damage the species.

"Seagrass and maerl create wonderful habitats supporting countless species," enthused John Warneford, assistant Harbour Master of the Port of Milford Haven. "They are slow to grow (some beds date back millennia) but easy to destroy with anchors. They are also huge fish nurseries, so their protection is vital to support fish populations," he added.

The Port of Milford Haven, which has a statutory duty to safeguard conservation areas in the Haven, insures and monitors the new red buoys close to Sandy Haven. Boats weighing up to 10 tonnes or 40ft in length can now moor there in total peace of mind, knowing they'll leave no anchor footprint of their stay.



Outdoor movie celebrates a past future

Hundreds turned out in Milford Marina this August to watch Back to the Future, put on as part of the Torch Theatre's popular Sunset Cinema series.

While so many things from the 80s fail to attract wide appreciation, the blockbuster movie was a hit for all generations this time around. Film lovers of all ages flocked to the marina with cushions, chairs and popcorn to enjoy the classic under clear skies.

"It was great to see people down here making the most of the occasion," said Lucy James, Marketing Manager. "It's a reminder that the marina is not only about boats. Visitors get to see what a great venue it is and visit the shops, restaurants and cafés too. We'd love to put on more shows like this here," she added.

On October 21 this year aficionados of the 80s hit Back to the Future movies were able to do a reality check on the scenes that saw the hero Marty McFly time travel forward to our day. The media was full of what the fictional films got right (drones that take dogs for a walk - who'd have thought?) and wrong (pizza hydrators - why?).

← *Great Scott! Hundreds watched Back to the Future at the outdoor movie in Milford Marina*

Sunrise over the Eastern Hangar

One of the biggest landmarks in Pembroke Dock, the historic Second World War Eastern Sunderland Hangar is playing its part in the modern age battle against global warming after being decked with a large bank of solar panels.

It's the latest space on Port of Milford Haven land to be packed with energy saving PV (photovoltaic panels). 400 panels will generate up to 100 kilowatts at peak.

Earlier this year the Port passed a major milestone when its operations became carbon neutral. The total output of all the panels installed across the Port is now nearing 6 megawatts.

The Sunderland Hangar was used by the giant U-Boat-destroying flying boats in the war and also as the top-secret location to build and film the Millennium Falcon for the epic blockbuster Star Wars. Energy Manager Tim James said the building made for an interesting installation.

"It is pretty exposed up there but the shape of the roof makes it ideal for gathering sunshine - when we get it," said Tim. "This is a historic, listed structure and we had to plan carefully to get the job done right. It's great to see the old hangar still doing important work for modern civilisation!"

Tim says he asked Chewbacca if he would like to officially switch on the panels but he was too busy preparing for the premiere of the latest Star Wars film out this month... or rather he thinks that's what the Wookiee said.

→ *Skywalker - an engineer from installers Gaia fits solar panels on the Sunderland Hangar*



PORT WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY School teaches kids about healthy eating

A free holiday school in Milford Fish Docks for children wanting to learn how to cook healthy meals out of fresh local fish has proved a huge success.

Milford Fish Docks, part of the Port of Milford Haven, teamed up with HealthasPire Nutrition Centre to run the summer cookery series that saw more than 70 children prep and cook delicious and nutritious fish pies.

"I was delighted by how well the classes went," said HealthasPire's Ellen Picton. "My aim is to show how easy healthy eating and cooking can be and to give kids the skills they can use for life. The school has long been a dream for me and I'm so grateful for the support from Milford Fish Docks in making this a reality."

Manager of Milford Fish Docks, Alaric Churchill said educating local school children about fish would also help to re-tie the links between the town and its own fish docks. "This is the biggest fishing port in Wales but its future depends, in part, on the next generation taking an interest in this thriving dock and learning to enjoy the catches landed here," he said.

← *School of fish - Children learned how to eat healthy, fishy meals*



Winter Warmer

Why not try a delicious fish pie using locally smoked haddock or kippers?
(See page 10)

Winter's here and on Pembrokeshire's exposed coast that means buffeting gales and big seas. However our nation still needs its oil, gas and other vital cargo

For a moment the horizon is all sky and the boat seems suspended in mid air. Handgrips tighten. "Here we go," says the skipper, with a thrill in his voice. When the pilot launch plunges down, a tremendous jolt passes through the hull as its blunt leading edge splits the next wave. All the windows in the wheelhouse darken and it feels like the boat is nose diving.

"It's not actually as bad as I was expecting," said Paul, taking a bite out of his biscuit. He's a launch crewman of many years experience. "Must have eased off a bit," he adds.

Storm Abigail has been battering the UK for a few days now and the swell, big rolling waves that matured in St Georges Channel, have come in to hammer the coast. This is the first proper storm of the winter. It has brought the first challenging few days for the launch crews who carry pilots to and from the big ships that come in and out of the Port of Milford Haven. Thousands of jobs and millions of homes and businesses rely on this port staying open in all weathers, so for this launch crew, staying at home is simply not an option.

Today the crude oil tanker Ingrid Knutsen is leaving. A Port of Milford Haven pilot was placed onboard as she moved off Valero jetty and he has guided the ship out to port limits and out of safe harbour. Now the crew of the launch must get him off.

The pilot launch Skomer is built like a pugnacious streetfighter. Constructed in Pembroke Dock and designed to take up to 1,000 impacts (they're known as controlled collisions) each year, she's being lined up by the coxswain for yet another bruising encounter. At just 19m long she's a long way off being in the same weight division as the 60,000 tonne, quarter of a kilometer long Ingrid, but with an experienced crew she boxes clever.

Approaching the big ship, his boat pitching wildly, coxswain Gary is trying to spot a window of opportunity to move in alongside. He must balance his options in moments and make split-second decisions. Not happy with the limited lee (shelter) the big ship is giving him from the surging seas, Gary radios the Ingrid and asks the master to turn and shoulder the storm more for him. There is a definite tension in the wheelhouse now.

Crewmen Paul and Rob, dressed in waterproofs, lifejackets and hard hats, have clipped on to the rail and moved onto the deck ready to receive the pilot. High up on Ingrid, pilot David Phillips is peering down, weighing up his own options. After all, he will be the one climbing down a rope ladder and onto the bouncing Skomer. There is nothing but his own sure grip to save him from falling into the roiling sea between tanker and launch.

"This is our only chance," says Gary, opening the twin throttles on the powerful engines. "We need to get him onboard now!" Skomer surges towards the sheer wall of red steel ahead. She jabs, rebounds then presses in again. This time Gary skillfully powers Skomer in against the bigger ship holding her fast alongside. High up and already on the rope ladder, Pilot David hesitates while a large wave forces a jet of spray between the vessels. Then he scrambles the last two metres down onto deck and into the safe hands of the crewmen.

The transfer is completed and the Ingrid Knutsen steams on towards the Irish Sea while the pilot boat turns her back to the storm and runs for shelter where the crew will await their next shout.



↑ Ready; get wet; GO! - The Port of Milford Haven pilot waits for a lull to make the final few metres safely down onto the Skomer



↓ Timing is everything - the launch presses in against the tanker as crew prepare to receive the pilot onboard



↑ On the rocks - a loose yacht can do a lot of damage to other boats and cause a major shipping hazard

Business as usual

No matter what the weather, life at the port goes on. Jobs, services and even lives depend on it. Winter weather can wreak havoc on the water and as an ever-present team on the waterway, it's often port staff who are first on the scene of an incident.

"We get boats torn from their moorings when it gets really rough," says assistant Harbour Master John Warneford. "A loose boat in the haven can do a lot of damage to other boats but a loose boat in the shipping channel could be a really serious," he adds. "This is a vital route and an obstruction would be a major headache. When we hear a boat is adrift we need to get out there as fast as possible to retrieve it."

In the marina, staff have to be vigilant when the weather turns. Dave Barrett (known to all as Berty) and his colleagues have to check every boat daily and more often when the storms hit. Many owners with much-loved boats in Milford Marina live many hours away. Naturally they are quick to call when they hear a storm has hit Pembrokeshire. A reassuring chat with Berty, fresh back in the office from doing the rounds does wonders for easing their worries.

"When it's blowing a hoolie, there's a lot more can go wrong," says Berty. "We always tell customers if there is a problem we will ring them but it's not surprising they're worried."

↓ While some hardy sailors keep going through the winter, many owners live far away and rely on daily checks by Port staff who keep an eye on their pride and joy



Did you know?

On the rare occasion temperatures plunge and Wales is hit by a big freeze, the Haven is one road that always stays open. In the harsh winter of 10/11 Wales ran out of road salt and routes across the nation became impassable. An emergency shipment of thousands of tonnes from Egypt was brought into Pembroke Port and enabled councils to clear the nation's arteries.

Action Man

At the sharp end of Port business, Gary Solomon takes on the mighty seas for his day job.

Gary Solomon is so keen to get onto the water, he even jumped off the Cleddau Bridge in October. He was attached to a bungee on that occasion but it was a characteristic day out for this man of action. Milford born and raised, Gary has risen through the ranks at the Port to become a watch manager on the pilot boats. He runs a team delivering pilots onto ships moving in and out of the Haven. Bringing ships safely in, carrying up to a third of the UK's seaborne energy, is one of the core parts of Port of Milford Haven's business. Basically, Gary's job is pivotal in keeping the UK fuelled up. Our energy is in good hands too. Gary does everything with precision. The 48 year old is a Karate black belt and extremely fit which is as well since his is one of the most physically demanding roles in the business. Pilot boats - robust, powerful launches - will take on the worst that the Irish Sea can throw at them but only with a highly skilled team aboard. It takes expertise and experience to get pilots safely onto a ladder of a supertanker in a storm. "We've operated in waves up to 7.5m high and in winds over 80mph - one time the boat even broached coming back into the haven," says Gary with no hint of the drama on his face. Broaching is no fun. When a boat rides down the back of a huge wave, its back end can suddenly swing around leaving everyone dangerously exposed to the storm. Capsize in that kind of winter weather and you're dealing with the worst possible scenario. "I didn't think we were going to make it home that night... there was a bit of a panic on... a couple of seconds lull and the cox [driver] had to try to straighten the boat before we were hit by the next wave," said Gary, very matter of fact. "In the dark you can't always see the waves coming." Looking at the long list of qualifications against his name, Gary is clearly driven. In fact, there is only

"I didn't think we were going to make it one night... there was a bit of a panic on..."

one goal he has failed to achieve. When he was a young man with his life ahead of him (and in Milford that often meant doing something port-related) he made it his mission never to take to the sea. "I was 16 and thought school was a bit of a joke. I went down the docks and got a job on the fish market, filleting and packing. It was in the heyday with trawlers everywhere. I watched them coming in and out and swore I would never go to sea because of the weather." Then one day his father in law, who was captain of an oil tanker, took him aboard his ship and Gary was hooked. "I've never regretted it. No two days are the same, always different things happening. One minute you're landing a pilot, the next you are rescuing someone in peril," says Gary. Pulling people - alive or dead - from the sea comes with the job since the Port launches are often able to be first on the scene. Having seen first hand the impact of tragedy at sea, Gary is passionate about trying to instil the same safety culture in amateur seafarers that he brings to his job. "People don't realise the danger of taking risks at sea. For example, you often see boats cutting in front of tankers, hell bent on where they're going. We need to make them aware," he says. And he does, doing talks at clubs up and down the Haven, explaining the dangers of the sea. Another mission Gary has is explaining to people why a busy port matters. "I don't think people have much of an idea of what we do. They sometimes look at

the Port as a bad place. They don't see the work that is done, the crews that work hard whatever the weather and the quality of skill and training of the people who work here," he says with obvious pride. "I remember having an argument with a friend of mine about the benefit of having a port on our doorstep when I was around his house once. I said to him 'why don't we have a cup of tea and talk about it?' "As he lit the gas on the stove I just pointed at the flame and said 'how did that get here!!'" Good point.



Man on a mission - Gary Solomon wants to spread the message about the good work done in the port



Mainstay Marine has the wind in their sales

Pembroke Port based boat builders "Mainstay Marine" has completed and delivered a new wind farm support vessel this autumn.

The 20m vessel Porth Nefyn is a high speed catamaran designed to take technicians offshore to wind farms to carry out servicing and repair work. The 50-tonne aluminium vessel will work principally on offshore European wind farm sites between the Baltic and Irish Seas. Buyer Turbine Transfers, based in North Wales, operates around 50 windfarm support vessels. Stewart Graves, Managing Director of Mainstay Marine, said: "The vessel has been built to time and to a high specification, thanks to our skilled and experienced project team. We have a reputation for quality workmanship, excellent project management and on-time delivery...the Porth Nefyn is proof that Mainstay Marine lives by this ethos." "The marine renewable industry is an exciting sector and with our facilities at Pembroke Port having direct access to deep water and our location being on the confluence of the Celtic Sea, Irish Sea and Bristol Channel, it positions us perfectly to support it." Mainstay has a further three 19m pilot boats under construction for the Port of Milford Haven, which are due for launch early next year.

← Porth Nefyn was built and launched at Pembroke Port Photo: Mainstay Marine

Hire and hire

Tool hire firm MPH has made a welcome return to Havens Head Business Park in Milford Haven. The leading Pembrokeshire hire specialist is relocating from Thornton Industrial Estate. Clare Stowell from Quayside Properties, the property arm of the Port of Milford Haven, said MPH's return is great news. "We are really pleased to welcome them back. They join a diverse range of businesses covering everything from car valeting to gardening services," said Clare. "Companies like MPH play an important role in Milford Haven's growing business community," she added. Also joining us is Indycube, opening their latest base for a shared office facility in the Smokehouse at Milford Marina. The desk booking scheme is ideal for small start ups or for people who traditionally work from home. Could this be the ideal workspace solution for you?"



Reason to be cheerful

← In the can - Brewer Morgan Coe is planning to can his beer and lager for local sale. A new microbrewery has started production in Haven's Head Business Park in Milford Haven this autumn. The Little Dragon Brewery, run by brewer Morgan Coe has set up in a unit close to the town library. "I want to produce something that is great tasting and available locally," said Morgan. "People have been trying the pale ale I've just brewed and they really like it," he added. Morgan expects his beer to have a strong presence in local pubs and people will be able to buy it in cans from local shops. Brewers are struggling with a shortage of good quality hops from the UK. For now Morgan sources his hops from Australia and America. However he swears by the traditional malting barley from here in the UK. "It's all about balancing the flavours of bitterness, hop aromas and sweetness," explained Morgan. "There's a great balance of old and new worlds in this one." Originally from Hazelbeach, Morgan went away for many years to work in property, but returned to Pembrokeshire to set up his brewery. He now lives in Llangwm. "The draw of being back next to the sea is a big one. I love being here and I love good beer. Milford is a good location and there aren't many units around like this," he added. For more information go to littledragonbrewery.co.uk or ask for Little Dragon in your local pub.

relight the fire...



The quiet appearance of small business in the fish docks is sending smoke signals that Milford Haven could once again be known as the place where fish comes from.

Where there's smoke - kippers disappeared from the docks in the 80's. Now they're set to be back on the menu once again.



“There are hundreds of years of tradition here. Fish from Milford was always considered high quality”

← Silver Darlings - the herring girls in Milford Haven skewered the prized gutted herrings before they're placed in the smokers. Photo courtesy of Shirl Thomas, taken from 'Milford Haven: Waterway and Town' (Tempus Publications Ltd)



Whenever Don Box finds himself chatting with locals around the Docks in Milford Haven and they ask him what he's doing there, the same question quickly comes up: "When can we get kippers again?"

The news that Don's company, Dragon Fish is about to light a smoking

kiln in the heart of the Milford Fish Docks is likely to kindle a few memories for anyone over a certain age. Milford Haven was famous across the UK as a major fishing port for more than a century and her kippers would be found on the dining tables from here to London and beyond. Nowadays evidence of the sheer scale of industry that once gave rise to the advert 'Milford Haven - where fish comes from' is less easy to find.

The historic Smokehouse Quay is now separate to the main fish dock operations in Wales' largest fishing port. Smart apartments and offices stand where once thousands of tonnes of herring were split, gutted, salted and lifted into racks to be smoked. The redstone smokehouse looks like a place built for a family of giants. Tall, thin and with few openings, it is a lonely reminder (there used to be more buildings like this) of the smoking operation that once was here.

While catches may be smaller these days, it remains a fact that high quality, much sought after fish and shellfish are still landed in the docks. Much of the seafood is packed on ice and loaded into lorries headed to Belgium or Spain. But a long-term plan to revitalise the docks as a place to add value to what is brought in, to reconnect the local economy with the centuries old trade that passes through the lock gates, is beginning to bear fruit. The Port of Milford Haven has built new processing and fish handling facilities as part of a major investment supported by the European Fisheries Fund through the Welsh Government.

At the back of their new industrial unit on the fish docks, Don Box and Pat Condron chat enthusiastically as they pull the wrapping off a pristine smoking kiln that they hope marks the rebirth of fish smoking in Milford Haven.

"There are hundreds of years of tradition here. Fish from Milford was always considered high quality," says Pat, a Cork man who first came in to Milford aboard a trawler in the seventies.

"And we are using a traditional method here," Don picks up, patting the side of the kiln. "At Dragon Fish we prepare the fish by hand, not with machines. Then the smoke circulates around the fish naturally, unlike in industrial processes where there are all sorts of fans blowing smoke on it... and we don't use artificial dyes like you'll see in many supermarket products."

The Milford 'brand' is key for both Pat and Don. Neither is local, yet both were pulled here as younger men by the gravitational draw of this great fishing port. Both really know their fish, too. Londoner Don came here to buy fish at the auctions many years ago because what is landed here is, quite simply, good fish.

"We realise we might not source everything locally to start with, but it's all about creating a demand," explains Don. "If we are here and buying the stuff, someone will go out and catch it, and then maybe someone else will come here and set up another fish business and you'll start building the businesses up."

This sort of thinking is music to the ears of Alaric Churchill, Milford Fish Docks manager.

"We built this new processing unit as part of a strategy to revitalise the industry here. We want the local economy to benefit more from fishing but to do that we need to create the demand for seafood that can be landed here," says Alaric. "Companies like Dragon Fish want to add value to seafood right here. That means investment, employment and a welcome call for local fishermen to land more of what's wanted."



← The docks were made famous up the line in London for the high quality catch coming in from the Irish Sea. Photo courtesy of Science and Society Picture Library



Y Gronfa Pysgodfeydd Ewropeaidd:
Buddsoddi mewn Pysgodfeydd Cynaliadwy
European Fisheries Fund:
Investing in Sustainable Fisheries



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

← Cabinet meeting - Don and Pat in front of the brand new smoker at Dragon Fish's home in the docks.

Winter Warmer

Why not try a delicious fish pie using locally smoked haddock or kippers?



Fish pie
2 large celeriac
1 kg mixed fish (haddock, cod, prawns, including 200g smoked haddock)
3 lbs butter
3 lbs corn flour
1 pint whole milk
150ml double cream
100g frozen peas
Chopped fresh parsley
100g grated cheddar cheese

Method

1. Preheat your oven to 180°C/350°F and place your oven dish at the bottom to keep warm.
2. Peel, cube, boil, drain and mash the celeriac. Add seasoning and cover with a lid to keep warm.
3. Dice up fish to similar size sized pieces and have ready.
4. Melt butter and stir in the flour to make a roux, add milk, cream and parsley and stir on a high heat until thick then keep simmering on a lower heat.
5. Add the fish pieces with the peas and cook through for 10 minutes, gently stir so not to break up the fish, transfer to the warm oven dish, top with celeriac mash and cover with grated cheddar and bake on 180c for twenty minutes.
6. Serve hot with lots of green veg.



Winter at Green Acres Animal Rescue

Thanks to global warming, we're having kittens. As mild weather melts away the winter freeze to a few short weeks, cats are giving birth to more litters each year. For Greenacres Animal Rescue the abundance is overwhelming and it's causing them sleepless nights...

As world leaders sit down in Paris to hammer out the latest global warming prevention strategy, it's unlikely kittens will be on the agenda. As bizarre as it seems, however, an explosion in kitten numbers seems to be yet another marker of our heating climate. For Mikey Lawlor and the volunteers at Green Acres Animal Rescue this means more kittens than ever are coming in to the smallholding just outside Talbenny.

"I was up at 2am feeding this one," says Georgie, cradling a tiny kitten. She's bottle feeding 4 kittens that are barely a week old. A young boy had been walking down a lane in Pembroke when he heard mewing coming from a hedge. When he investigated he found three tiny kittens apparently left by their mum (most likely a semi feral cat) curled up in the bushes. A visit by the local vet next day revealed another sibling huddled in the foliage.

"Feral cats are living outdoors and if the weather is warm enough they can have three litters a year now where they used to have two. That means mums are often still feeding one litter when they're having a second... and when food is scarce and they haven't got much milk they may well abandon their kittens. That's one reason we have so many here."

Georgie and the other carers at Greenacres Animal Rescue Centre can tell us a lot about our attitude towards pets. They see the seasonal peaks for pets being acquired and - the less happy flipside - the subsequent surge in numbers surrendered or, more distressingly, dumped and abandoned. While it may come as a shock to people the amount of work and stress having a pet can sometimes involve, when it comes to cats, their ability to procreate shouldn't really come as a surprise.

"Our message would be that as soon as a kitten is old enough, get it spayed. People believe a cat isn't a cat until it's had a litter. That's just not true. And if you own a boy cat, get him neutered. After all it takes two to make kittens!"

Elsewhere at Greenacres, it's rabbit heaven in the new purpose-built bunny enclosure. Port volunteers helped construct a 15m x 6m sheltered run so full of playthings that it's surprising there haven't been any break-ins by bored feral rabbits. Mikey points out the artificial burrows weren't the hit they were expecting. It seems they're a bit beneath suburban bunnies. "Domestic rabbits don't really know what to do with a burrow," says Mikey. "They seem happy enough however."

Out in the paddocks where the bigger animals amble about we meet a turkey strutting about with a couple of pigs. This is Mr T. A fine specimen like this would surely have few problems being rehomed at this time of year, albeit with little prospect of seeing the other side of Christmas. However Mikey is very clear: Mr T can strut safely in the knowledge his future is assured.

Did you know Greenacres has opened a new second hand furniture shop in Milford Haven. All profits go to running the rescue centre. As well as having a shop in Milford Haven, there are also drop off points at Pets at Home, Haverfordwest, Yorkshire Building Society in Tenby and Sandyhill Nurseries in Saundersfoot where they take donations of essentials such as food, bedding, flea treatments, collars and leads. For more information and to view the animals needing homes visit www.greenacresrescue.org.uk

"Our message is, as soon as a cat's old enough, get it neutered."

Sarah Kimpson
Green Acres Animal Rescue



- ↙ A-cute Symptom of global warming - milder winters mean more kittens
- ↑ Milk of human kindness - caring for orphan kittens is a 24 hour job.
- ↓ Mr T is a pet for life, and definitely not for Christmas.



Every year organisations around Pembrokeshire apply for thousands of pounds from the Port of Milford Haven's Community Fund. Here's a round-up of some of those who benefitted in 2015.

To apply for funding please visit www.mhpa.co.uk/financial-support. There's an application form to download and guidelines for applicants.



Llanion Warriors Rowing Club

The annual WSRA National League Race took place in Pembroke Dock on 9th August 2015 and was sponsored by the Port of Milford Haven. The club is based at the East Llanion Boatyard and they train and race on the Cleddau during the race season.

↑ Llanion Warriors Rowing Club



Pembrokeshire Access Group

The Port provided funding to help the Pembrokeshire Access Group purchase a new beach wheelchair to enable disabled people enjoy the coastline. The project aims to ensure that everyone can enjoy the same facilities equally.

↑ Sara Andrew, PR and Communications Co-ordinator at the Port, along with other sponsors, tests the new beach wheelchair at Angle



Milford Haven Sea Cadets

The Sea Cadets successfully applied to the Port for assistance to purchase a hull to enhance their capabilities of safety afloat. The boat will also help them to provide further RYA qualification training in powerboating, sailing and windsurfing to the young people and adult volunteers within the unit.

↑ PR and Communications Manager at the Port, Anna Malloy, with the new hull, along with fellow sponsors South Hook LNG



Coastlands School PTA

A graffiti art project was undertaken at Coastlands School in St Ishmaels thanks to funding from the Port of Milford Haven. An eco travel graffiti wall depicts pupils travelling to school in eco-friendly ways and an attendance tree graffiti wall features a tree upon which those children who achieve 100% attendance in a year have a dedicated leaf.

↑ Anna Malloy, PR and Communications Manager at the Port of Milford Haven, with pupils at Coastlands School

No one person is responsible for keeping the Port safe - it's everyone's job

“We love big public events, but we're like a swimming duck... we move about calmly but there's a hell of a lot going on underneath” **Richie Morgan**

The waterside makes a great venue for a party. Take the huge success that was the Milford Fish Festival this year. More than 6,000 people came on a sunny day to get a taste of seafood, enjoy the attractions in the docks and relax by the water.

For Richie Morgan and the team from the Port of Milford Haven it was not a chance to relax by the water. While people were drawn to fresh fish grilling on the barbecues, the potent mix of crowds, sun and deep water simmered with a dash of alcohol were why he was there.

“It all seems to run itself when the party gets started, and we were really pleased it went so smoothly,” said Richie. “I had a brilliant day. But what you don't see is the sixty hours of planning ahead of the festival and that, on the day, every one of our team was keeping a watch for problems.”

The Sunset Cinema event in August was another great success. Crowds on the quayside, this time late into the evening came together to watch Back To The Future on the big screen. “We know the quayside is a great place for public events,” said Richie. “It might sound like we are making work for ourselves but it's worth it.”

↓ *Crowds, darkness, deep water and alcohol - public events like the November 5th Fireworks on the marina can be a headache in the planning unless everyone's across the risks.*



Rowers warned to be a bit brighter

Getting up close and personal with supertankers is all in a day's work for the 700 tonne tugs on the river. However one tug master operating off Pembroke this autumn was horrified to find himself bearing down on two tiny rowing boats on a gloomy evening in October and hadn't seen them because they did not have sufficient lighting on board. The rowers had put themselves in even greater danger by being in the shipping channel where large vessels move day and night, constrained by the need to be in deep water. Fortunately he could take action to avoid them but the near miss raised an important safety issue.

Port of Milford Haven Harbour Master Bill Hirst says the rules are clear but that common sense also applies. “You need a light on board that is visible from all around,” he said. “However,” he continued, “if there's poor visibility you must stay away from parts of the river where you'll encounter other boats. Stick to the shallows close into shore and always keep a proper look out.”

↑ *Rowing is now popular throughout the year, but as evenings draw in, boats must be visible*



1. What is this place, where is it and when was it built?



2. What is this and where is it pointing?



3. Where is he and what flourished because of him?



4. Where is this and whose unexpected arrival does it mark?



5. Where exactly is this? What is this and where is it from?



6. What is this? Where is it and where is it from?

The winner will receive £50 worth of vouchers to spend at a retail outlet or restaurant of your choice at Milford Marina.

The winner will be drawn from all correct entries submitted.

Postal address: PR Department, Gorsewood Drive, Milford Haven, SA73 3EP; email: communications@mhpa.co.uk

Congratulations to Huw Gibby from Bristol who won the crossword challenge in the last issue. Huw wins a free boat trip for four with Discover Milford (discovermilford.co.uk)

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 below. We cannot guarantee every letter will be printed but will respond either way.

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