

ONBOARD



Port of Milford Haven

Summer 2020 | Issue 11
News from the Port of Milford Haven

The New Wave Generation

The rise of the energy leviathans



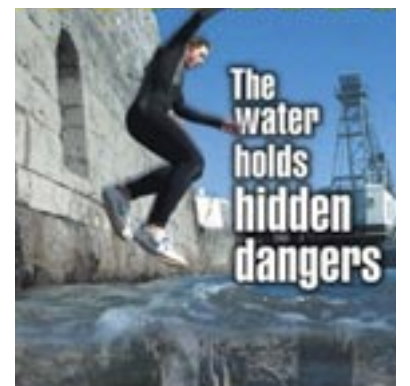
Here to stay
100 bedroom hotel gets the go ahead at Milford Waterfront



Sue Burton
We meet the woman defending our marine treasures



Cups of happiness
The fully caffeinated boys giving a lift to Pembrokeshire



Stir crazy
After lockdown we need to keep calm on the water

MILFORD MARINA

Berthing | Boatyard | Services

Visitors welcome all year round

Book a 12 month berth at Milford Marina and enjoy



10 weeks free boatyard storage



Flexible payment options



Discounted petrol and diesel



Discounts at local businesses

Visitors welcome all year round
Stay 4 nights, get the 5th free
with the Milford Marina Visitor Card



Call us today on 01646 796159
or visit www.milfordmarina.com



MILFORD MARINA





Hello,

Like all of you, we have had to find new ways of living and working amid the Covid-19 pandemic. For a busy, working port this presented some unique challenges. It's hard to introduce a 2-metre distancing rule when our crews quite literally handle pilots onto the ladders of moving ships. Likewise, the stevedores taking the huge mooring lines from the Irish Ferry have to share a very small space on the narrow dolphins where the lines are tied off.

All our workers are considered critical workers by the Government and many of our front line workers have remained on duty throughout the lockdown. I am so impressed by the way they have adapted to the challenges they face, and I expect CEOs and managers across the county have seen a new side to their staff these past few months. It's not often we let our home lives cross over into work, and yet the lockdown has blown away any walls of separation that existed between them. I can tell from the timestamps on emails I've received that staff have been putting in long hours to keep up with their workload, all the while managing home schooling and other challenges they've been facing in their personal lives. I've been running weekly Q&A videos with staff from my home and it's become a running discussion among them about what t-shirt I will turn up in each time.

The Port has stayed open, goods have continued to pass through (in fact, during one week we were handling around half of the UK's demand for gas). And yet as the UK's largest energy port we are able to get a unique perspective on the extent to which the nation has shut down. With no flights, there's been no call for jet fuel. No car travel means no demand for petrol and diesel - Valero lost 70-80% of its global market almost overnight. That had a huge impact on our business. Industrial complexes have closed down, and that, coupled with unseasonal warmth meant a massive drop in gas demand. Before the lockdown it would have

been hard to imagine an event that could have had so chilling an effect on our business and the wider economy in such a short time.

Public spaces, including Milford Waterfront, have been eerily quiet. Small businesses there and across Pembrokeshire, so dependent on seasonal visitors, have been devastated by the lockdown.

This is a moment that will be remembered in history. I have often asked my staff how, when this is all over, they think we should be remembered as an organisation operating during this time. As a business, we want to make a difference more than ever and to support communities as much as we can, whether it's providing rent holidays to hard pressed tenants or helping to organise community action.

Taking the positives then (as I am known to do), I see the way our teams have virtually welcomed each other into their homes, and the way our communities have come together, as models of an improved way of working and living in the future. I have seen the better side of most people in this crisis and am impressed at how we all worked together. How do we hold on to that when the pandemic is over?

Finally, despite the tough times, I've been reminded how lucky we are to live and work in Pembrokeshire. It is hard to imagine the impact of lockdown on people living in city centre flats. To have the opportunity to walk, cycle, run or just sit outdoors in such a beautiful part of the world is a privilege at the best of times.

Andy Jones

Andy Jones Chief Executive

Inside ONBOARD

- 4** Port News
News from across the Port's operations
- 6** Port Feature
Coping with Covid - how the Port adapted to lockdown
- 8** Profile
Meet Sue Burton, Guardian of the SAC
- 9** Customer News
An update from businesses around the Port
- 10** Customer Focus
Giant steps for power players Bombora Wave
- 12** Port Charitable Update
GTBAL - The hitch-hikers guide to good coffee and a chat
- 13** Community Fund News
A round-up of who's benefited from the Port of Milford Haven's community fund
- 14** Safety Focus
Avoiding cabin fever and the rush to get outdoors
- 15** Aftword
Post pandemic, could what nearly broke Pembrokeshire make us stronger?



Editor: Adrian Lort-Phillips, The Message
Photography: Owen Howells
Design: Rockpool Design
Print: Forrest Print

Port of Milford Haven
Gorsewood Drive, Milford Haven,
Pembrokeshire SA73 3EP
01646 696100
communications@mhpa.co.uk
www.mhpa.co.uk
@mh_port
PortofMilfordHaven

If you'd like to receive this publication by email please contact us.

Power-up for Pembrokeshire

Go-ahead for Pembroke Dock Marine paves the way for a marine energy revolution.

Pembrokeshire's status as a globally important centre for marine renewable energy - offshore wind, wave and tidal - has been boosted, following the announcement that a landmark project has been given the green light.

Pembroke Dock Marine, a complex £60m initiative, will see Pembroke Port and the Waterway adapted to serve the fast-growing sector. The Port will provide a centre of excellence providing a home to fabricators, developers, researchers and operating and maintenance businesses looking to commercialise devices that can harness the enormous marine energy resources both off the Welsh coast and around the world. The industry is expected to unlock much of the energy required for the UK to reach net zero carbon emission targets by 2050.

The project required a blend of funding, including investment from the Port of Milford Haven and European Regional Development Fund. However the final tranche of £28m, provided through the Swansea Bay City Deal, was approved this summer.

What will Pembroke Dock Marine do?

Pembroke Dock Marine (PDM) will create terrestrial and marine assets combined with research, development and innovation support to establish a world-class centre for marine engineering with an immediate focus on low carbon energy. At the heart of this project is the certain knowledge that marine energy can provide significant and cost-effective electricity generation helping the UK and nations around the world achieve net zero carbon energy targets.

Pembrokeshire already has the energy industry supply chains, the infrastructure and the significant natural resources to make its case as a global leader in the sector.

Who are the partners?

There are four 'pillars' to the project, overseen by the four leading partners involved. The Port of Milford Haven will deliver infrastructure improvements

within Pembroke Port, including laydown and fabrication space and facilities to launch and recover devices. The £41.7m infrastructure project is being funded by the Port of Milford Haven, Swansea Bay City Deal and WEFO.

Marine Energy Wales will deliver marine energy test areas (META) which will comprise a range of pre-consented test sites in and around the Waterway where developers can test and deploy prototype devices. The £2.67m project is being supported by the European Regional Development Fund and the Swansea Bay City Deal.

ORE Catapult will develop a Marine Energy Engineering Centre of Excellence (MEECE) which will support innovation by linking researchers and experts at Wales' leading universities to locally based technology developers. The £11m MEECE project is funded by the Swansea Bay City Deal and the European Regional Development Fund, as well as ORE Catapult and Swansea University. Finally, the £5m Pembrokeshire Demonstration Zone project, managed by Wave Hub Ltd, will be a 90km² offshore site for deployment of up to 100MW of wind and wave arrays where developers can finally prove devices prior to wider commercialisation. This project is also supported by the City Deal and European Regional Development Fund as well as the Welsh Government.

What have we been waiting for?

The project required a blend of funding, including investment from the Port of Milford Haven and European Regional Development Fund. However the final tranche of £28m, provided through the Swansea Bay City Deal, was approved this summer.

What does PDM mean for Pembrokeshire?

This is a big deal and vital for the future economic prospects of the county, delivering up to 1800 jobs in the next 15 years.

"Pembroke Dock Marine creates the foundation on which to drive inward investment and innovation funding into Pembrokeshire. Bombora's relocation to Pembroke Dock and the Milford Haven Energy Kingdom project are great examples that this already happening. We are looking forward to welcoming more businesses to the area as the project unfolds" said Andy Jones, CEO at the Port of Milford Haven.



↑ Future proof - The move towards marine renewable energy - boosted by the green light for Pembroke Dock Marine - will bring jobs and investment to Pembrokeshire



Waterfront Hotel gets the Go Ahead

↑ *Here to stay - Milford Waterfront's new 100 room hotel got the go ahead this summer.*

A new 100 bed hotel planned for Milford Waterfront received the green light during lockdown.

It will be built on the site of the Burnyeats Building, or "The Ice Factory" as it's best known locally.

Although Covid-19 delayed demolition of the current building, the landscape on the Waterfront will begin to change in September.

Building of the hotel will start in January and is expected to take around 18 months. An announcement of the name of the hotel operator will be made shortly so keep an eye on our social media channels to find out more.

Meanwhile, plans are still moving ahead to convert the Grade II listed Quay Stores building, next door to Costa, into a multi-purpose conference and events venue capable of accommodating over 300 people at a formal function. The facility will be able to host a variety of events including conferences, exhibitions, concerts and weddings.

CCAT project to make Port's past and future ever present

A wide-ranging project themed around climate change has been launched that will help communities fringing the Irish Sea understand climate change and how we can best adapt. CCAT - Coastal Communities Adapting Together - is a European funded project that will, amongst other things, look at ways to bring Pembroke Port's heritage to life.

Coming as the exciting developments in renewable energy gather pace with Pembroke Dock Marine, CCAT will assist communities around Pembroke Dock and Milford Haven in adapting to the next phase of the Waterway's evolution. The Port of Milford Haven is one of six partners in the project. Lauren Blacklaw Jones is Community Engagement and Communications Coordinator for CCAT.

"For many of us living locally, one of the effects of climate change we are likely to see is rising sea levels. As the world commits to zero carbon energy, one of the biggest things we can do is support renewables. With Pembroke Dock Marine on the horizon it's so exciting to see this region playing a part in the solution, and we want to bring people along with the changes," explained Lauren.

"As industry evolves, one of the concerns expressed is about the potential loss of heritage as new structures go up," she added. "We want nothing to be lost to time, and there's a lot of amazing history right here that we want to highlight, so one idea CCAT is looking at is to use augmented reality apps to show heritage that may be hidden to the eye."

CCAT has also been working with partners to stage a series of inspirational workshops for students looking at marine renewable energy as a potential career (see p.7).

Milford Haven: Energy Kingdom

↑ *Hydrogen powered cars will start appearing on the streets of Pembrokeshire under the new project.*

A project that will map out how Pembrokeshire might evolve to using hydrogen for heating, power and transport has been awarded £4.5m. The Milford Haven Energy Kingdom project, led by Pembrokeshire County Council, of which the Port of Milford Haven is a partner, will explore how hydrogen, created through the rapid growth of renewable electricity, could play a vital part in a decarbonised energy future.

"This project is very much at the forefront of energy innovation," said Tam Bardell, energy development manager at the Port of Milford Haven. "If the UK is to meet net zero carbon targets by 2050, we need to decarbonise the energy sector. The project will be the first major step the Port will be taking to prove hydrogen has a place in the Haven's future. That's important as it also ensures growth, keeping jobs and industry alive here, and making the most of all the transferable skills from a very successful existing energy sector."

Plans are still in development and subject to relevant permissions, but to demonstrate technology and test feasibility, two hydrogen powered RASA cars, built by Welsh company Riversimple, should be operating as fleet cars in and around the Haven, with a H2 refuelling facility to be built and hopefully located on the Port estate. A hydrogen-based heating system is also being designed and should be installed and tested in a Port-owned building.

"Hydrogen has significant potential as a clean, green fuel for our region" continued Tam. "It can be created using excess electricity generated by renewable technologies, and then it acts as a battery, storing energy until it's needed. What we need to look at is how to make using hydrogen financially viable within the different energy vectors of heat, power and transport; whether it's putting in a hydrogen-fuelled heating system, running a hydrogen vehicle, or building a hydrogen powered manufacturing facility."

“We all have a role to play keeping up people’s spirits and that means reaching out”

Clare Stowell, Director of Property and Tourism, Port of Milford Haven.

Coping with Covid

Milford Waterfront is a life affirming and enjoyable destination for many. But with lockdown, people couldn’t leave home to visit the waterfront. So, businesses reached out to everyone at home.

Not one of us has been spared the impact of the pandemic. Families and businesses across the world have endured nearly half a year with lives disrupted and plans on hold.

Over the last four years, Milford Waterfront has become a destination with wide appeal. The careful strategy to draw up a masterplan and, step by step, develop the range of attractions, has reached an exciting stage where not a month goes by when there is not a visible addition to the area. All this progress has added to the increased buzz and sense of place. So how does a destination cope with Covid-19?

For the team at Milford Waterfront, the mission to make the place the success it has become has only been possible thanks to the wonderful local businesses that have come in. They have supported and driven the excitement and brought with them much of the quality on offer that creates the magic.

“We are all one big and growing family,” said Clare Stowell, who heads the team at Milford Waterfront. “That family has, like millions around the world, shared the same space during lockdown.”

“Everyone’s livelihood is linked in this community. Everyone has pulled together,” said Clare Stowell. “It has been incredibly hard for everyone. I have been massively impressed by the sheer can-do spirit of business owners here who have adapted and worked - even invested - to trade on through the crisis.”

“During Covid-19, we have tried our hardest to keep in contact with businesses, tenants and Milford Marina berth holders. We’ve worked hard to support and promote local businesses operating through the pandemic,” continued Clare.

The lockdown changed the way we all work, but one fact that hit home more than most is that life is not all about work. So much of what brings us happiness - and what it turns out many of us took for granted - is in the people we see, the places we visit and simple experiences, such as eating out, taking a walk, going to a play or catching a movie.

“As a destination team, we were not prepared to sit quietly by as lockdown bit deep into day-to-day life. We, and many of our partners at Milford Waterfront, knew it was vital to keep contact with our customers,” explained Clare.

“For many businesses, not being able to trade in a traditional, face-to-face manner is an existential threat to their livelihoods. We’ve seen lots of businesses adapt where they can, but they - and we - have been going further. We all have a role to play keeping up people’s spirits and that means reaching out and offering support and ideas to families struggling to stay sane!”

At Easter time, when exceptionally warm weather frustrated families yearning to escape, the team at Milford Waterfront laid on a series of online challenges and fun activities, including a downloadable Easter activity booklet, dances and even a chance for an online Q&A session with Rascal the Easter bunny. (Anyone wondering how Rascal keeps her tail so fluffy, the secret lies in rolling in puddles, apparently.)

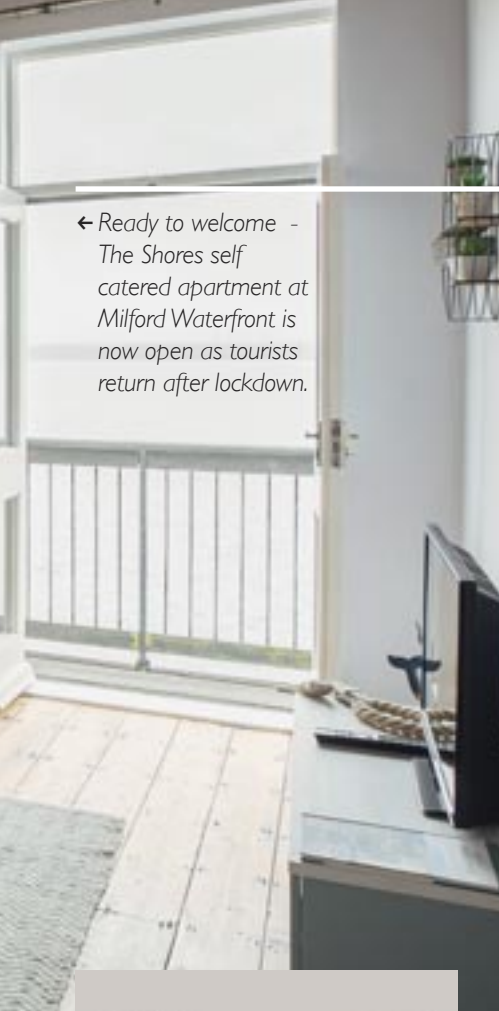
“Beyond the fun stuff there was also the serious matter of mental and physical wellbeing: it became a growing priority during tough times,” said Clare. “We wanted to help build the connection between people in need of some self-care, and the professionals here at Milford Waterfront who could help. This included fitness tips from B-Fit Health and Fitness Club, nutrition advice from Healthaspire and, as we all became more and more shaggy haired and crumpled, some top hair and beauty tips from Van Dyk’s salon, Aspire Beauty and Salt Hair and Beauty. We even promoted a little online retail therapy from some of the great outlets that are here.”

For Dan Mills, owner of Milford Waterfront restaurant Martha’s Vineyard, it’s been a rollercoaster experience. “It all came to a grinding halt in March. It was a case of sink or swim,” said Dan. “We decided to adapt, firstly with takeaway “pub at home” ale packs that people could order online, then with a food takeaway service,” he continued.

“I was really impressed how local businesses stepped up. The Port’s marketing team has been superb for us and really embraced the whole town, listing local businesses on their website promoting what we were doing.”

“Looking ahead, I am very optimistic,” continued Dan. “For many of us, our businesses will never be the same again. But we’ve had time to reflect and reconfigure, even refurbish. We need to embrace a new way of doing things and this reminds us that the tourist pound is more important than ever.”

Clare Stowell agreed. “I don’t think anyone knows how things will be in the coming months,” she said. “There may be challenges ahead, but we’ve learned a lot about what’s important in life, about making our businesses more resilient and, above all, about how we need to work together to face any challenges ahead,” she added.



← Ready to welcome - The Shores self catered apartment at Milford Waterfront is now open as tourists return after lockdown.

Help for the helpers

The impact of Covid-19 on most businesses has been severe. However, many charities that support those most in need have had the double blow of losing much of their fundraising capability, whilst seeing those they support hit hardest by the lockdown.

When the pandemic measures were first announced, the Port of Milford Haven property team contacted all tenants with charitable status and offered them rent support. The three-month rent-free period helped see them through the most challenging times of the lockdown.

Tracy Olin, manager at PATCH, a charity that gives free food parcels, clothing and household items to those in financial straits, said: "We are so thankful to the Port for this support. Yet again they have stepped in to help us, while we help those less fortunate in our county. The money saved on rent went towards purchasing much needed food, as well as fuel for our delivery vans."

Staff at the Port have also been delivering food parcels for PATCH throughout lockdown.



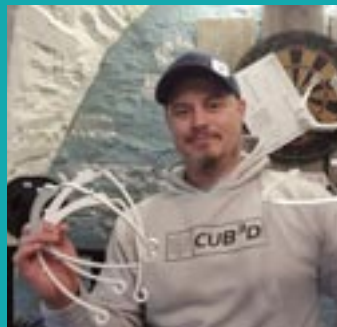
↑ More oar less - Our handy guide to social distancing struck a chord with the public slowly returning to the streets after lockdown.



↑ Rare sighting - Rascal the Easter bunny was online to answer some eggstremely tough questions, including 'How do you manage to deliver so many Easter eggs without ever being seen?'

Shielding key workers

→ Lee Canny from CUB3D



The Port of Milford Haven donated funds to an innovative local company who set their advanced 3D printing capability to making face shields for key workers.

Two thousand face shields have been manufactured by CUB3D and sent to Withybush Hospital and care homes in Pembrokeshire. CUB3D, based in Pembroke Dock, specialises in digital scanning. However, to help combat the lack of essential supplies for front line workers, directors Nic Curcio and Lee Canny turned their machines to printing parts for face shields for NHS, care and shop workers who need to protect themselves.

CUB3D set up a fundraising page to raise money for the project and the Port of Milford Haven donated £1000 to the cause. "It's great to support a local company using their expertise and specialist equipment to benefit others," said Andy Jones, Chief Executive at the Port of Milford Haven.

Director Nic Curcio said "CUB3D are completely humbled at the generosity of the local community. The response to the donation page has been overwhelming, but more importantly the response of people who are receiving them has been absolutely amazing. They all really appreciate it."



Stemming the tide

↑ Wind up - Students grappled with the challenge of building wind turbines at the STEM event, staged to entice school leavers to pursue careers in marine renewables here in Pembrokeshire.

Whilst attention has been focused on Covid-19 and its impact, Pembrokeshire's bid to become a home for marine renewable energy took a leap forward. The announcement that the Pembroke Dock Marine project would be getting funding under the UK Government's City Deal programme, coupled with important license permits and fund awards for partners of the project, gave huge impetus to the emerging sector here in west Wales.

One output that's a priority of the Pembroke Dock Marine project is to ensure school leavers can gain the skills they need to find rewarding, high value work here within the renewables industry.

In March, Pembrokeshire College hosted a STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) careers event for local secondary schools and college students.

The event was organised in partnership with the Port of Milford Haven, the CCAT (Coastal Communities Adapting Together) project and Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum with support from industry experts from Mainstay Marine, Bombora, ORE Catapult, Centre for Sustainable Aquatic Research (Swansea University) and the Bucanier Project.

Pupils from Ysgol Harri Tudur and engineering students from Pembrokeshire College were invited to attend the event, which saw the Bridge Innovation Centre in Pembroke Dock transformed into a series of interactive workshop spaces.

The Port of Milford Haven's Director of Energy Development, Tim James is from Pembrokeshire. He says it's important that school leavers make the most of the opportunities for high quality jobs here in west Wales.

"I've been really lucky to work, live and play in Pembrokeshire for the last 10 years and it's all been on the back of a career in renewable energy development," said Tim. "I want more opportunities for our young people in Pembrokeshire, to enable them to do what I've done and stay here, earn good wages from good jobs and have good opportunities."

Many students were amazed to learn the scale of activity in marine energy in Pembrokeshire. Jake Riley, an engineering student at Pembrokeshire College, was impressed to learn how much is going on. "I definitely think this could be a good career opportunity for me and everyone else who is doing engineering at the moment," he said.

PORT PROFILE

Guardian of the Sea

We all assume that someone is out there making sure Pembrokeshire's renowned coast and shorelines are protected and well understood. However, many would be surprised how few people are on the front line, helping sensible decisions to be made that balance the needs of humans on the one hand, and the habitats and species that make our waters internationally important sites on the other.

Sue Burton is the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Officer employed and hosted by the Port of Milford Haven. She works on behalf of a wider partnership of local organisations to help to facilitate any tensions between the various agencies and businesses operating in our waters, and the voiceless flora and fauna with which they must coexist.

Born in south Devon and a marine biologist by training, Sue travelled widely both as a professional diver and wildlife expert before coming to south west Wales.

It was a small advert for a seasonal post working at the Skomer Marine Nature Reserve (now a Marine Conservation Zone) that brought her to Pembrokeshire. There she worked as a conservation diver and fell in love with the place.

"I found Pembrokeshire very much like a home from home; like Devon but without the crowds, which suited me just fine," explains Sue as we walk across the gravel flats of the Gann in Dale.

Sue stops suddenly and stoops to pick something up. "It's my favourite shell, a Turban Top Shell [sea snail]. It's just so beautiful," she enthuses. You don't have to talk long with Sue to get a strong sense of her love for the world below high water. "The reason why Pembrokeshire is so special is it offers such variety of marine life," she says, her eyes constantly casting around her for more interesting finds. "We have warm water from the Gulf Stream meeting the cold waters from the north, so we tend to get a taste of both worlds," she explains. "And we have a range of geology that results in different communities living on and around the rocks. But we've also got varying levels of exposure, from the wild open coastline, which is battered by waves, to the wonderful Milford Haven waterway, which is a beautiful sheltered ria."

Sue's obvious love for getting outdoors is frustrated only by the amount of desk-based work she has to do. But that doesn't dampen her enthusiasm. "I think the variety of my work is what I love.

I do get frustrated that I have to spread myself thinly across various areas, but on the plus side, one minute I could be dealing with fisheries, the next looking at water quality and the next it could be looking at the impact of a particular recreational activity."

To ensure the careful management of our waters, Sue works with all the potentially competing interests that occupy or move through these special spaces. How does she think we manage the balance between human activity and nature?

"I think much better than we have done in the past but there is still room for improvement," she replies after some thought. She points upriver towards the chimneys of Valero refinery. "A working port has to be maintained and there's industry here that's very important to UK needs. I think increasingly industries are making more effort."

What human impact causes her most concern?

"All our cumulative actions that affect water quality. Run off from the land contains not only sediments, but nitrates and phosphates. Then there are also pesticides, detergents, even pharmaceuticals - all the pills that people pop - that all end up in the marine environment. The worry is not only the poor water quality that results, but the fact that the impacts are so wide ranging," she adds.

Sue is Britain's longest serving dedicated SAC Officer. She has, as she happily points out, spent nearly half her life here in Pembrokeshire. As a result, she is known and respected by people and businesses operating the length of the Waterway and beyond. But her particular passion is for education. She places high value on producing resources for helping young and old learn more about the world (find her on social media - details below).

"Without education there is no understanding. Without understanding there can be no appreciation and without appreciation there can be no protection."

Does she think we appreciate what we have in Pembrokeshire?

"Not everybody. I was shocked to find out from teachers how few children in Pembrokeshire have been to a beach. How is that possible?!" she says, with obvious exasperation, as she looks down the beach towards the Waterway.

"It's very sad. But I think our recent lockdown experience has forced people to explore their locality. Even the most unassuming stretch of shore can offer an adventure".

You can follow Sue's work on Twitter: [@pembsmarinelifelife](#) or on Facebook [@Pembrokeshiremarinewildlife](#): There are also challenging quizzes to test your knowledge - or your kids' - of marine wildlife.

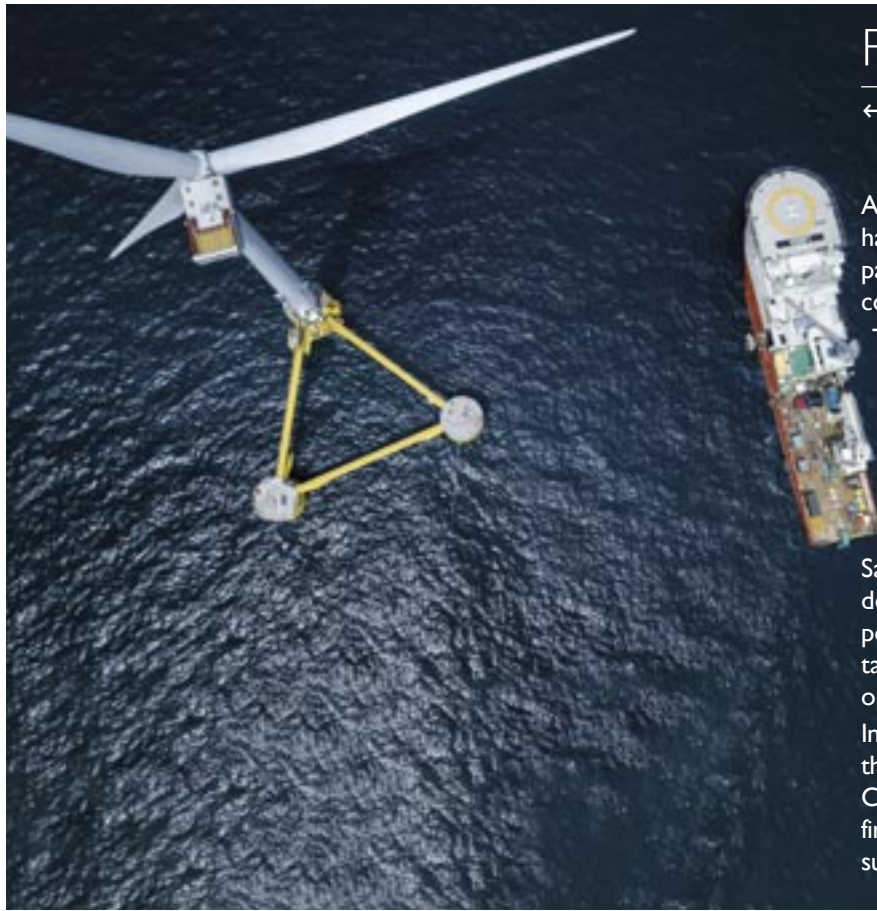
“I was shocked to find out how few children in Pembrokeshire have been to a beach. How is that possible?”



← Britain's longest serving SAC marine conservation officer, Sue Burton, represents the voiceless flora and fauna below high water.

→ Sue is passionate about education and captures marine life in photographs that she turns into quizzes and fact sheets.





Floating wind gets a lift

← Floating wind off the Welsh coastline has enormous potential to help meet the UK's net zero targets, deliver jobs and attract investment in Pembrokeshire. Credit: Image courtesy of Principle Power

A pioneering marine energy developer with offices in Pembroke Dock has linked up with one of the world's largest energy companies in a partnership to develop floating wind projects off the Pembrokeshire coast in the Celtic Sea.

The agreement sees Simply Blue Energy join forces with Total in a consortium called Blue Gem Wind to develop an initial 96MW project 45km offshore. The project, named Erebus after the famous ship built in Pembroke Dock in 1826, is believed to be the first in a series of projects planned for the Celtic Sea. Blue Gem Wind has established an office in Pembroke Dock to work with the local supply chain on the opportunities created by this project.

Sam Roch-Perks, Managing Director of Simply Blue Energy, said "We are delighted to have signed the agreement with Total. Developing the potential of the Celtic Sea will make a positive contribution to the UK's target of reaching Net-Zero by 2050, whilst offering exciting new opportunities for industry in Wales and Cornwall."

In a recent report, the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult has advised that there could be as much as 50GW of electricity capacity available in the Celtic Sea in Irish and UK waters. It is estimated by the Catapult that the first GW in the Celtic Sea, could potentially deliver 3,000 jobs and £682m in supply chain opportunities for Wales and Cornwall over the next ten years.



Legal team lands in Pembroke Dock

↑ Leanne Thomas from Greenaway Scott and Melanie Jenkins from the Port of Milford Haven outside the new premises.

A business law firm has opened its doors in a Grade II listed building in Pembroke Dock owned by the Port of Milford Haven.

Greenaway Scott has expanded into Pembrokeshire having already established successful branches in Cardiff, Bristol and Oxford. The firm specialises in the provision of legal services to companies in the areas of Corporate Law, Commercial Contracts, Intellectual Property, Employment and Commercial Property.

Leanne Thomas, Corporate Director at Greenaway Scott commented "We are delighted to have opened a new office in Pembroke Dock and are keen to meet and engage with local businesses who previously would have needed to travel to Cardiff or perhaps further afield to find the commercial business advisory services that the GS Verde Group offers."

She added, "Staff at the Port have been wonderful from start to finish. Nothing has been too much trouble and they've made the transition a very easy one for us. We are excited to be here during a period of economic growth which is being supported by the Port - it's a great time for Pembroke Dock."

It's Cocktail Hour as local pair take on Coco's

Popular Milford Waterfront restaurant, Coco's, has new management with exciting plans to expand the outdoor dining and drinking offer.

Phil Bentley and James Findlay, both from Milford Haven, took over the waterside eatery at the end of June and officially opened at the beginning of August.

"We were already making plans for a bar when Coco's came up unexpectedly," said Phil. "We love the space and have redecorated and altered it to give it a cool, trendy vibe," he added.

"We've also increased the size of the bar and added a new cocktail menu to appeal to a wider audience," Phil added. "Our head chef, James Lampert, is using Pembrokeshire sourced ingredients including local fish from Milford Fish Docks."

Taking on the business in the midst of lockdown has presented challenges, according to Phil. However, social distancing rules have also given impetus to how they make use of outside space.

"It's not been the best time to open a restaurant, but we're taking on the challenge by creating a great outdoor area with booths and a pagoda to make the most of the location," said Phil. "We love what the Port of Milford Haven has planned for Milford Waterfront and we are confident people will love what we're doing here, too," he added.

↓ Happy hour - New management at Coco's Restaurant at Milford Waterfront has undertaken refurbishment, increased outside seating and added a new cocktail menu.



Riding the wave

↓ The brightly coloured mWave is now at Mainstay Marine, waiting for its 3 stable mates to be completed. They will be mounted to a rig measuring 80m in length and weighing 900 tonnes.



Pembroke Dock has seen some unusual loads pass through over the years. However, it's unlikely anything compares to the sight of a bright yellow, 40 tonne leviathan trundling its way to the docks on a quiet Sunday morning in July.

Early risers may not have known it, but this was their first glimpse of a brave new world dawning at Pembroke Port. In less than a year, this brightly coloured giant will be incorporated into the main structure along with three stablemates and lowered into the sea off the Pembrokeshire coast. Its deployment is expected to prove wave power devices can complement other proven megawatt capacity technologies like wind and solar as a viable zero carbon energy source. The renewable energy world will be watching.

The mWave device, designed by Bombora Wave Power, is the result of six years of intense research, development and testing. The Australian company came to Pembroke Dock in 2017, attracted by Welsh Government support for the sector, along with the Port of Milford Haven's intent to create a marine energy industry here in Pembrokeshire.

In mWave, Bombora had an innovative, award winning idea. However, to make that idea reality, they wanted to draw on the expertise of a Pembrokeshire supply chain that has looked after the energy industry here for more than half a century. As evidence of the breadth and depth of talent in the Waterway, the cell modules - as the yellow devices are

→ The mWave™, Bombora's highly innovative, award winning concept taking shape in Pembroke Dock, that promises to unlock wave energy and convert it to electricity.



“We are about to show the world that this is a commercial product; we are feeling very confident!”

Sam Leighton, CEO, Bombora Wave Power Ltd

called - are being fabricated by Altrad in Llanion and will be assembled into the main structure fabricated at Mainstay Marine. It's for this reason the payload was being moved through the streets of Pembroke Dock.

Australian Sam Leighton is the CEO of Bombora.

"The transition to renewable energy is critical for humanity's future. So far, wind and solar have made good progress in this market but we need other solutions," Sam explains. "Wave energy can play a very important part of this renewable energy mix, and Bombora is demonstrating that with the mWave."

To extract useful energy from waves, Bombora faces two fundamental challenges. Firstly, there's the issue of survivability: the ocean is one of the harshest environments on earth. Secondly, there's the problem of economics: the infrastructure required to cost effectively harness and import wave energy onto land has long been a barrier. Bombora believes it has answered both these challenges.

Innovation holds the key to unlocking wave potential

Bombora's 3.0MW Fixed mWave™ sits beneath the ocean surface, harnessing wave pressure from above, using its patented flexible rubber cell module technology to generate renewable energy.

The membrane is extremely thick, flexible and durable. In extremely heavy waves, the chambers can be deflated.

The Welsh coast has a significant wave resource. Pembrokeshire has the highest concentration of wave resource in Wales equating to an indicative capacity of up to 5.6GW providing a significant opportunity for development of the industry.

In Europe alone, ocean energy could provide 10% of the continent's energy needs by 2050, according to Ocean Energy Europe (OEE). OEE also reports that 2019 saw an increase of 25% in the capacity of wave energy generation and is forecasting rapid growth over the next year.

Wales has wave and tidal stream export market potential of £76 billion. (Marine Energy Wales - State of the Sector Report)

→ *Simplicity of design - despite complex components within the device, mWave's rugged and modular design will allow maintenance crews to lift individual sections off the seafloor for repair and servicing.*



The company name holds a clue to the answer of survivability. 'Bombora' is an aboriginal word used to describe ocean reef. Unlike other devices that have to battle with the elements on the surface, the mWave sits like a reef on the sea floor - around 10m beneath the waves - and captures the pressure that rises and falls below the surface as waves roll by.

To answer the challenge of making wave energy generation economically viable, Bombora has used a mechanically basic principle to convert energy to electricity. The modules are big, hollow chambers with a rubber membrane on top, like giant bellows. Pressure from waves bears down on the bellows, driving air out of the chambers and through a turbine. That air then recirculates to re-inflate the module and the action repeats.

Bombora's test rig, the array that will be lowered into the water off Angle peninsula, will weigh 900 tonnes and be capable of generating 1.5 megawatts of electricity. Dave Rigg is Chief Operating Officer for the mWave project.

"The machine is very large and that has presented a number of challenges within the supply chain. Indeed, at times we have pushed them to the limits of their capability, and we've had to work with them to adapt and overcome those problems," explains Dave. Clearly unfazed by these challenges, he grins with relish. *"That makes it interesting and that's why our guys come to work and love doing what they do"*

What Bombora is doing matters, not just for the company, but for Pembrokeshire, Wales and beyond. This is a £17 million-pound project supported by a £10.3 million European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grant through the Welsh Government. Success for the project will only enhance Pembroke Port's growing global reputation as a home for the marine renewable energy industry.

For Sam and the team, the recent green light for Pembroke Dock Marine [see p4] will be welcome news as well. The £70m project to upgrade the facilities in the port, including development of quayside launch and recovery capabilities, research resources and testing facilities, will dramatically improve the company's ability to service and maintain mWave during the evaluation period. *"Pembroke Dock Marine is very exciting,"* says Sam. *"We are spearheading a new industry here, creating jobs while addressing the global need to reduce carbon emissions. Pembroke Dock Marine will attract even more activity, more companies wanting access to the location, supply chain and support. And every new business is good news for the local economy,"* he adds.

The evidence of Bombora's own success supports his optimism. The company has grown rapidly since arriving in Wales. It started with 4 employees and now has 26 and has ambitious growth plans that will see it treble its workforce over the next three years. Its contracts have also sustained 45 jobs within the local supply chain and 80% of the work packages it has tendered have gone to UK companies. Marine energy businesses such as Bombora offer highly skilled opportunities in the region.

As we look to shift our energy needs to renewables and low carbon, how well we build structures with due regard to the environment and habitats will be equally important. Madeline Cowley is the Project Manager at Bombora. She has been working with agencies to secure the consents needed to lower the mWave device onto the seabed in the waters off Angle. Providing comfort to those charged with protecting the unique environment off this world-renowned coastline has been a critical part of the company's mission.

"The location where we are putting the device has a lot of protections. It is a special area of conservation below high water, and a site of special scientific interest and a national park above," Madeline explains. *"That we managed to consent the site with those protections reflects the minimal environmental impact of the device."*

Again, the marine energy world will be watching. Once proven, the mWave will be deployed around the world. Bombora is currently working on a 3.0MW grid connected wave park project in Lanzarote, as well as investigating project opportunities in Japan, Ireland and Australia.

"We are about to show the world that this is a commercial product," says Sam Leighton. *"We've been through a long and very careful process to get here and this is the culmination of all that work - we're now right at the pointy end of this project and are feeling very confident!"* he adds.

PORT CHARITABLE UPDATE

The Place Where Everybody Knows Your Name (and they're always glad you came)



↑ It's either coffee or 'other' at Get the Boys a Lift (left to right: Harri Evans (The Boss), Ryan Evans, Steven Cristofaro, Gaz Owens, Jake Hicks, Gregory Walters.



↑ You don't have to be mad to work here, but... Smiles come as standard in the coffee shop at 7a Dew St

The Port of Milford Haven's Charity of the Year is a fresh and fully caffeinated group of boys who are changing the landscape of mental health support in Pembrokeshire. And it's all because one of them stood on the side of the A40 and stuck his thumb out for a lift four years ago.

It's a simple message but it's inspired one of Pembrokeshire's most original fundraising groups in recent years. In 2016, Gareth Owens decided to raise money by hitch-hiking for five days around Wales. Deeply affected by the suicides of two students in his final year at school, Gareth wanted to do something to raise money for mental health charities working with younger people. His mammoth hitch-hike would go on to raise £3,000 and a great deal of coverage. However, as he stuck his thumb out on the A40 outside Haverfordwest that morning, neither he nor his friends realised where the journey would end up.

"I just wanted to start a conversation about mental health and preventing suicide in young people" said Gareth. "It's quite easy to forget that this stuff goes on down here and despite being this tourist hotspot with golden beaches and a California style life, there are some pretty real issues here."

He used social media to log his progress and sold t-shirts to raise the money. He managed to generate so much interest that his epic journey inspired others. A year later he was joined by three mates in a reprise of the challenge and Get The Boys A Lift was born.

By 2018, through printing and selling a range of branded t-shirts they'd raised £12,000. Funding was going to charities to deliver mental health

support, but Gareth and the team wanted to commit themselves more deeply to the cause. In 2018 they took on Ryan Evans as a director to help coordinate the organisation and, more importantly, find it a home.

"We were running out of space just dealing with the sales and packing t-shirts and other merchandise," said Ryan. "We saw the property in Dew Street, [Haverfordwest] and thought 'this is perfect'. We had decided we wanted to offer face-to-face support using professional counsellors and the coffee shop was the answer."

It isn't only script writers who understand the power of the coffee shop (or bar) as a place to unload life's problems. Once they had

decided to move from fundraising to being on the frontline of mental health support, the boys knew a low key, informal setting of a coffee shop as a base for their professional counsellors could help them in their mission.

"With coffee, you can have people coming in who might need support from our counsellors, but they might not feel comfortable to ask. They come in two or three times and then when they feel confident enough, they ask," explained Ryan. "With a coffee shop, no one knows why you're coming in."

Importantly, it was their love of great coffee that helped create GTBAL's winning blend. As Ryan is keen to point out, you're not just getting any old coffee at 7a Dew Street. "We went to Manchester to meet the guys at Allpress [a New Zealand roasting company strong on hipster cafés and smooth on community outreach], and after getting us to taste a few coffees they sent us away with a brand-new grinder and coffee machine. "I think

“Hitch-hiking is like life: you don't need to know someone to give them a lift”

anyone who has been here before will agree the coffee they get here is one of the best in Pembrokeshire!" added Ryan.

For just over a year now, lockdown aside, the GTBAL coffee shop has been open for business. Revenue from sales of merchandise and coffee supports the work of three professional counsellors. And, staying true to their origins, the team are continuing their road trip adventures.

"I think we all agree, hitch-hiking is great," said Ryan. "You go places you've never been before and meet people you'd never meet. And it's a good way of realising even when you are on your own, you can have fun."

"Back in 2018 when we all reached Belfast, we were given a table in Wetherspoons," recalled Ryan. "People following our progress on social media started going on the Wetherspoons app and buying us beers. In the end, we had 187 pints of Guinness ordered... I think we ended up giving them out to people in the bar, although my memory of the night is not all that clear."

So, thousands of miles, t-shirts and cups of coffee later, GTBAL is here to stay. More than 130 people have had access to free counselling already and the community interest company employs three full time and three part time staff.

"We never planned for it to end up like this. It was just organic," said Ryan.

Founder Gareth still gets a kick from seeing people wearing their t-shirts. "I'll sometimes have a laugh and make a comment to a stranger complimenting them on it," he said. "It shows how far it's come on and hopefully how much good it's been able to do here."

For more information about Get the Boys a Lift, find them on Facebook @gettheboysalift or online at www.gettheboysalift.co.uk, or drop in to the coffee shop at 7a Dew Street, Haverfordwest, SA61 1ST.

COMMUNITY FUND NEWS

The Port of Milford Haven's Community Fund is proud to support a wide range of community groups every year. In 2019, over 85 organisations successfully applied for funding and so far in 2020 over 30 good causes have been supported. In addition to this, funds have been set aside to allow additional support to organisations that have been affected by Covid-19.



Under the Bridge:

Under the Bridge returned for 2020 in a new format due to Covid-19 restrictions. The Port once again teamed up with Milford Youth Matters to launch a Youtube channel and created short 'Things to do this summer' videos. From special effects make-up to garden sculptures, they gave young people the ideas and tools to try something new.

Following successful funding from Milford Haven Town Council, Under the Bridge 2021 is set to be bigger and better, making up for lost time in 2020.



Football clubs get set for new season

The Port has funded many local youth sports groups in the recent months, including Pennar Robins Under 7s who applied for new kit to stand out with their older age group teammates. Meanwhile, Camrose FC Under 9s were able to buy skills kits which enabled the team to practice their football skills at home during lockdown when training was unable to take place.

↑ *Lauren Williams from the Port with Pennar Robins U7s.*

↓ *Joseph from Camrose FC practicing his football skills at home.*



↑ *Nick Barthorpe and Martin Charlton from Porthmawr Surf Lifesaving Club with their new kit*

Lifesaving equipment

Porthmawr Lifesaving Club applied to the Community Fund for safety equipment to be used as part of their voluntary lifeguard services at Whitesands beach. The grant enabled them to purchase an emergency first aid backpack, first aid bum bags and uniforms for their volunteers.

Since receiving the grant, they have been able to patrol Whitesands beach alongside the RNLI lifeguards to keep visitors safe across the busy summer period.



Port Scholarship Awards

It's been an extra special year for the Port's Scholarship Scheme. The standard of applicants proved to be so high that the panel awarded an additional scholarship, taking the total to five.

The judging panel has awarded scholarships to Amelia Davies from Burton, who is studying Business Management at Cardiff University; Fred Smith from Manorbier, who is at the University of Bristol studying Politics and Philosophy; Grace Gibbon of Haverfordwest, who is at Harper Adams University in Shropshire on a Rural Enterprise and Land Management course; Megan Matthews from Pembroke who is studying Engineering Science at the University of Oxford and Sophie Rees from Liddeston who is on a Gateway to Veterinary Medicine course at The Royal Veterinary College. Each have received £1,500 and will join the Port for a placement at a later date.

The Port of Milford Haven's annual Scholarship Scheme for 2020/21 was launched at the start of September offering four Pembrokeshire students the chance to win £1,500, plus work experience at the UK's largest energy port.

To find out more and apply to the Scholarship Scheme please visit www.mhpa.co.uk/scholarships

SAFETY BRIEFING

After lockdown, beware going stir-crazy

The boating season got off to a belated start this year. As frustrating as it might have been to miss some perfect boating days during lockdown, the danger of a compressed season coupled with the potential for a more frenzied dash for the coast has raised some safety issues. Assistant Harbourmaster, John Warneford said that despite easing of restrictions, it's still not business as usual, and won't be for the rest of what's likely to be an extended season.

"Many of the facilities and services we would normally expect to see are not available or are running at reduced capacity," explained John. "Unfortunately, people don't seem to realise this. With social distancing rules likely to be in place for the remainder of the season, there will be queuing. Everyone's patience will be tested. The increased activity on and by the water also puts additional and occasionally unsustainable pressure on the emergency services," he added. "The more people there are, the more vigilant and careful everyone is going to need to be."

The Port of Milford Haven has also had to reissue a warning as a minority of people continue to put themselves at risk by jumping into the water off sea and quay walls at Milford Marina and Hakin Point.

"Tombstoning at these locations is extremely dangerous, not only due to large numbers of commercial and leisure vessels entering and leaving the lock, but also due to the risk of cold-water shock. Strong currents and submerged objects, such as shopping trolleys, are a very real danger as well," said John.

Similarly, fishing from the quayside at the lock, marina and dock basin is not allowed. As well as being hazardous to customers using the facilities, it is dangerous for the public as it is an open quay," John added.

Finally, as people try to pack in a much-needed break, everyone needs to be aware of the 'touch points' they are interacting with and the need for maintaining good hygiene. Examples around the port and Milford Waterfront include railings on pontoons and quaysides, lines, pub walls and beer garden furniture.

"When you're out and about, hand hygiene is more difficult so think about carrying hand gels to minimise any risk of contamination," said John.

↓ Don't do it! - Jumping off quay walls into the water could lead to serious injury or death.



Enter your photos for the chance to win a voucher to spend at Milford Waterfront

The Milford Haven Waterway is a fascinating location to photograph, and by entering our Photo of the Month competition, you could be in with the chance of winning a voucher to spend at Milford Waterfront and featuring on our website.

Our Photo of the Month competition is open to everyone and we want to see entries that capture the spirit of the Milford Haven Waterway, including the scenery, wildlife, coastline and sunsets, the boating community, and Milford Marina itself. All entries are displayed on our website during the month of entry, and visitors to the page vote for their favourite!

Photographs by (Left to right): Wesley Jones, Chris Gale and Tim Rogers

Enter today at www.milfordmarina.com/POTM



Coming back better

We've learned some tough lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic. If we act on those lessons, what has hurt us could make us stronger.

It has been a brutal few months for us all. The lockdown brought on by the pandemic was effective in flattening and reversing the upward curve of cases and their consequential fatalities. But the virus has also left economic destruction in its wake.

While many will recognise the stress that Covid-19 has brought into our lives, businesses reliant on the machinery of government, both at a local and national level, recognise the speed with which action has been taken to safeguard jobs, income and business continuity. Billions have been released and reached intended targets in a concerted operation, the likes of which we have not seen since the Second World War.

However, the seismic shock to our economy has opened long hidden fault lines here in Pembrokeshire. As a county reliant on tourism and hydrocarbons we have been particularly exposed. Almost overnight, economic activity around oil refining was gone, tourism was wiped out.

Tourism is worth around £0.6 billion each year to the Pembrokeshire economy and accommodation and associated food services are the second biggest employer. Countless businesses and families rely on a limited season to make a living. And we are becoming increasingly reliant on tourism as the fastest growing sector of our economy.

So, we face a turbulent next year or more, with disruption almost uniquely tailored to hit Pembrokeshire where it most hurts.

Enough gloom. What lessons can we take from this crisis that could make us stronger?

Firstly, looking out for each other should be the rule, not the exception. We have seen wonderful examples of people, communities and businesses coming together to help those most in need. Looking out for our collective wellbeing should be a standard to which we all strive.

Secondly, we must diversify. We rely on too few sectors for our economic prosperity. We need to relentlessly push outwards, explore new industries, encourage more entrepreneurship and investment here in Pembrokeshire.

Thirdly, being the mother of invention, necessity has shown us what we are capable of. The pace with which our governments have acted, and the extraordinary ingenuity with which everyone, from council departments to businesses and their employees have made things happen, shows what is possible when we slash through the bureaucracy and red tape. We must continue to show this dynamic can-do attitude. Even if the urgency of the crisis may pass, we still face enormous challenges that require the same pace, inventiveness and sense of purpose.

We owe it to our future selves to fix the fault lines in Pembrokeshire. We will get through this pandemic. However, for us to truly defeat it, let's make it a catalyst for positive action for the sake of the next generation.



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

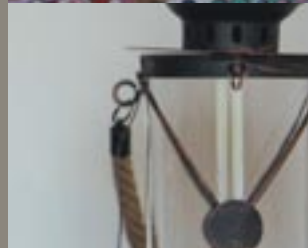
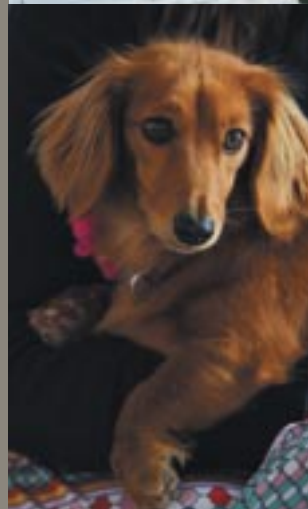
📍 @mh_port
📍 PortofMilfordHaven

Stay

at Milford Waterfront

Enjoy a luxurious glamping experience in your very own floating hotel room, or panoramic views of the Milford Haven Waterway in our self-catering holiday apartment.

With a choice of four luxurious "Floatel Cabins" nestled among the boats moored at Milford Marina, and our newly renovated apartment "The Shores" providing panoramic views of the Milford Haven Waterway, you'll be sure to find the unique break you've been searching for.



Eat

at Milford Waterfront

There's a fantastic range of cafés and restaurants on the menu at Milford Waterfront.

Whether you fancy coffee and cake, breakfast, brunch, afternoon tea, dinner, traditional fish and chips, authentic Neapolitan pizza or an ice cream, there's a wide selection of eateries to choose from.