

= Milford Haven =

Milford Haven (/ ˈmɪlfɔːd ˈheɪvən / ; Welsh : Aberdaugleddau , meaning " mouth of the two Rivers Cleddau ") is a town and community in Pembrokeshire , Wales . It is situated on the north side of the Milford Haven Waterway , an estuary forming a natural harbour that has been used as a port since the Middle Ages . The town was founded in 1790 on the north side of the Waterway , from which it takes its name . Designed to a grid pattern , it was originally intended by the founder , Sir William Hamilton , to be a whaling centre , though by 1800 it was developing as a Royal Navy dockyard which it remained until the dockyard was transferred to Pembroke in 1814 . It then became a commercial dock , with the focus moving in the 1960s , after the construction of an oil refinery built by the Esso Company , to logistics for fuel oil and liquid gas . By 2010 the town 's port has become the fourth largest in the United Kingdom in terms of tonnage , and plays an important role in the United Kingdom 's energy sector with several oil refineries and one of the biggest LNG terminals in the world .

Milford is the second largest settlement in Pembrokeshire , with a population of 12 @, @ 830 ; while the 13 @, @ 086 people in its community boundaries make it the most populous in the county . As a Welsh local government community , Milford takes in the town of Milford itself and its suburbs , including Hakin , Hubberston , Liddeston , and Steynton . The total population of the 6 electoral wards in question was 13 @, @ 907 at the 2011 census .

The natural harbour of the Haven was known as a safe port and was exploited for several historical military operations throughout the second millennium . Campaigns conducted from the Haven included part of Henry II 's Invasion of Ireland in 1171 and Cromwell 's own attack on Ireland in 1649 , while forces which have disembarked at the point include Jean II de Rieux 's 1405 reinforcement of the Glyndŵr Rising . In 1485 , Henry VII landed at the Milford Haven Waterway before marching on to England .

= = History = =

The town of Milford was founded in 1793 , after Sir William Hamilton obtained an Act of Parliament in 1790 to establish the port at Milford , and takes its name from the natural harbour of Milford Haven , which was used for several hundred years as a staging point on sea journeys to Ireland and as a shelter by Vikings . It was known as a safe port and is mentioned in Shakespeare 's Cymbeline as " blessed Milford " . It was used as the base for several military operations , such as Richard de Clare 's invasion of Leinster in 1167 , Henry II 's Invasion of Ireland in 1171 , and Oliver Cromwell 's 1649 invasion of Ireland ; while forces which have disembarked at the point include Jean II de Rieux 's 1405 reinforcement of the Glyndŵr Rising and Henry VII 's 1485 landing at the waterway before marching on England . By the late 18th century the two local creeks were being used to load and unload goods , and surrounding settlements were established , including the medieval chapel , and Summer Hill Farm , the only man @-@ made structures on the future site of Milford .

Sir William Hamilton , the town 's founder , had acquired the land from his wife , Catherine Barlow of Slebech . His nephew , the Hon. Charles Francis Greville , invited seven Quaker families from Nantucket and Martha 's Vineyard to settle in the new town and develop a whaling fleet , In 1800 , following the bankruptcy of the shipbuilding contractor Jacobs & Sons , who had established their shipyard there in 1797 , he persuaded the Navy Board 's overseer , Jean @-@ Louis Barrallier , to lease the site for the Navy Board and develop a dockyard for building warships . Seven royal vessels were eventually launched from the dockyard , including HMS Surprise and HMS Milford . The town was built on a grid pattern , thought to have been to the design of Jean @-@ Louis Barrallier , who remained in charge of shipbuilding there for the Navy Board . Between 1801 and 1803 , the town and waterway were protected by temporary batteries at Hakin Point and south of St Katherine 's Church , in response to the perceived threat following the Fishguard Invasion .

A church was consecrated in October 1808 and dedicated to St Catherine of Alexandria in the underdeveloped eastern side of the town , it remained a chapel of ease until 1891 when Milford became a parish , until that time competing with St Peter and St Cewydd in Steynton . By the start of

the 19th century , a mail coach was operating between London and Hubberston , and in 1800 the short lived Milford and Pembrokeshire Bank was established by Thomas Phillips , operating from a branch in the town . It collapsed in 1810 .

In 1814 the Royal Dockyard was transferred to Pembroke Dock ; though , when Robert Fulke Greville inherited the estate in 1824 , a commercial dock was started which became the home of a successful fishing industry . By 1849 , the district of Hakin was described as a considerable centre of boat building , and by 1906 , Milford had become the sixth largest fishing port in the UK , and its population rose . The Pembrokeshire Herald claimed in 1912 that " the fish trade is Milford 's sole industry the population of the town has doubled by means of it " .

In 1863 , the railway network came to Milford , linking it to the Haverfordwest line and beyond . In 1866 , work was completed on an additional extension which provided access to the docks and ship @-@ breaking yard on the eastern side of the town . Between 1875 and 1886 The Great Eastern was a permanent fixture at Milford Docks , remaining there for lengthy repairs . Her arrival into the docks was heralded as an example of the scale of vessel which the town could expect to attract .

In the late 1850s , work began on a network of forts on both sides of the Milford Haven estuary , as a direct result of the Royal Commission on the Defence of the United Kingdom . They were designed with the intention of defending the United Kingdom against French invasion , although were never used for this purpose . Notable examples in the town were Fort Hubberstone in Gelliswick and Scoveston Fort to the north east of the town .

By 1901 , the town 's population had reached 5 @,@ 102 , and by 1931 had further doubled to 10 @,@ 104 . The early twentieth century saw a period of increased urbanization of the area ; in the period from the First World War to 1937 , 312 council houses were built , and public services , such as electricity supplies and sewerage , were completed . The steep gradient of the Rath was at this time constructed , and in 1939 a Town Hall was opened on Hamilton Terrace , at that time possessing an inbuilt fire station . 1939 also saw the opening of an outdoor swimming pool on the Rath .

During the Second World War Milford Haven was chosen as a base for allied American troops , and roughly 1 @,@ 000 American military personnel were housed in the town at this time . They manned an amphibious base which included a hospital built in Hakin and a docks complex at Newton Noyes . The base had a complement of 71 officers and 902 enlisted men , and played a rôle in preparations for D Day . Despite its strategic importance as the home of a large fish market , a mines depot , a flax factory , and housing numerous military personnel , Milford escaped serious damage from German bombings during the Second World War . In the summer of 1941 a bomb fell in fields near Priory Road , and later that year , a bomb damaged a house in Brooke Avenue . In neither instance were there casualties .

In 1960 , the Esso Company completed work on an oil refinery near the town , which opened despite environmental objections . This was followed by similar developments by many other chief oil companies in a 10 @-@ year period . In 1974 , Milford could boast an oil trade of 58 @,@ 554 @,@ 000 tons , which was three times the combined trade of all the other ports of Wales . In 1996 the area hit the headlines internationally when the oil tanker Sea Empress ran aground , causing a substantial oil spill . By the early 1980s , the Esso refinery was the second largest in the UK .

= = = Toponymy = = =

Milford Haven is an Anglicization of an old Scandinavian name " Melrfjodr " that was first applied to the waterway ? the Old Norse Melr , meaning sandbank , and fjodr , meaning fiord or inlet , developing into " Milford " ; then later the term " Haven " from the Germanic word Haven for port or harbour was added . The town was named Milford after the waterway , and , as with the waterway , Haven was added later ? in this case around 1868 , when the railway terminus was built . The Welsh for Milford Haven , " Aberdaugleddau " , refers to the estuary which is the meeting point of the " White River Cleddau " (Afon Cleddau Wen) and the " Black River Cleddau " (Afon Cleddau Ddu) . The term " Aber " is associated with the ' pouring out ' of a river , hence the description of the two rivers meeting and forming an estuary . Cleddau itself may make reference to the action of a

weapon or tool cutting through the land .

= = Geography = =

The town of Milford Haven lies on the north bank of the Milford Haven waterway , which is a ria or drowned valley . This is a landscape of low @-@ lying wooded shorelines , creeks and mudflats . There has been a great deal of loss and degradation of local mudflat habitat as a result of industrial and commercial development ? one study indicated a 45 per cent loss in Hubberston Pill .

The town itself has a historic late 18th and 19th centuries core based on a grid pattern , located between Hubberston Pill and Castle Pill and extending inland for 500 metres (1 @,@ 600 ft) . Milford Haven 's 20th century expansion took in several other settlements . Hakin and Hubberston are older , and situated to the west of the main town . Steynton is a medieval village to the north , no longer separated due to the expansion of houses . Lower Priory , with the remains of a very early religious Priory , is located in a natural valley near the village of Thornton .

Milford Haven enjoys a mild climate . Its proximity to the coast contributes to wet winters , but it enjoys a generous amount of sunshine with around 1 @,@ 800 hours of sunshine a year being recorded for the nearby village of Dale . This is comparable to the South Coast of England , and the highest annual average level of sunshine in Wales . The nearest official Met Office weather station is at Milford Haven Conservancy Board .

= = Governance = =

The community of Milford Haven covers an area of 1 @,@ 573 hectares (6 @.@ 07 sq mi) and includes the Milford Central , East , Hakin , Hubberston , North and West wards . The community has its own town council . The Lord Mayor is Councillor William Elliott BA QTS who is serving his first term in office and the Deputy Lord Mayor is Councillor Colin Sharp . These appointments mean that Milford becomes the first town in the UK to appoint both an openly gay Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor The six wards comprising Milford Haven community each elect one councillor to Pembrokeshire County Council . Milford Haven was part of the historic county of Pembrokeshire , abolished in 1974 , which was reconstituted as a unitary authority when local government in Wales was reorganised in 1996 . Between 1974 and 1996 , Milford Haven was part of the Preseli Pembrokeshire district of Dyfed . Milford Haven is part of the Preseli Pembrokeshire National Assembly for Wales constituency and UK Parliamentary constituency . The local Assembly Member is Paul Davies of the Conservative Party and the local Member of Parliament is Stephen Crabb , also a Conservative .

= = Economy = =

Milford Haven has experienced a history of boom and slump in shipbuilding , fishing , as a railhead and an ocean terminal . At the height of the fishing boom , it was said that " every day was a pay day " . In 1921 , 674 people were identified as working in the fishing industry , the leading occupation in the town , followed by transport and communication with 600 employees . The development of the oil industry also helped to boost the town 's fortunes . However , the slumps have been just as severe , the area being scheduled as ' distressed ' in the inter @-@ war period . During the 1980s and 1990s , the unemployment rate at times topped 30 % , and the major industry of oil refining created no more than 2 @,@ 000 direct or indirect jobs . Into the new millennium , its fortunes have risen , as can be witnessed in the activity surrounding the LNG terminal , and the new building works which accompanied it and its connection to the controversial South Wales Gas Pipeline . In February 2003 , Pembrokeshire Council granted outline planning permission to Petroplus for an LNG storage depot at Waterston , and in March 2004 , an additional site was approved at South Hook for ExxonMobil . International tourism has also increased , with the arrival of transatlantic liners and the revenue they introduce to the town . 2012 saw 3 @,@ 000 cruise passengers from six cruise vessels disembark at Milford , and the Port Authority expected 5 @,@

000 in 2013 . The waterway transports 25 % of Britain 's requirement for motor fuel , and the port handled 53 million tonnes of shipping in 2008 , making it the largest port in Wales , and the sixth largest in the UK . There are two major commercial centres : Charles Street in the historic town centre , and the Havens Head Retail Park located at the foot of the docks area . In 2012 , it was announced that the Milford waterway was declared an Enterprise Zone by the coalition government , due to its importance to the energy sector . In 2014 , plans by Milford Haven Port Authority were unveiled , which propose a transformation of the docks area into a residential and commercial destination , including hotel accommodation .

In November 2014 it was announced that Milford Haven Refinery , a major employer in the area , will be converted into a ' storage and distribution facility ' with a loss of over 300 jobs .

Post @-@ war Milford Haven was not considered a promising location for tourism : a 1964 study commissioned by the District Council highlighted the lack of nearby beaches , proximity of the town to heavy industrialization , and a shortage of tourist facilities such as restaurants and hotels . However , in the 1980s , a series of steps to beautify certain parts of the town commenced . The outdoor swimming pool , which had remained disused for some years , was transformed into a water @-@ garden and officially opened in 1990 by Margaret Thatcher . In 1991 , the Tall Ships Race came to Milford , and this coincided with an overhaul of the docks . Subsequently , it was rebranded as a marina , and a number of attractions including cafes , restaurants and retail outlets sprung up . A Tourist Information Centre is located near the retail park and the local museum , in the old custom house , focuses on the maritime history of the area .

= = Demography = =

By the 1950s , the fishing industry was in decline , and unemployment in the area had reached 11 % . There had been a housing boom however in the years following Second World War . The District Council took advantage of recently lifted restrictions , and built over 1 @,@ 000 new homes to accommodate the rising population . A new wave of hope however arrived with the prospect of a booming oil industry . The industry however was not labour @-@ intensive , and did not provide huge labour opportunities for locals , in the 1970s employing only 2 @,@ 000 workers . " The nature of large construction projects meant that workers were attracted from outside the local area , and the decline of the fishing industry was to a certain extent masked . However , this employment was not permanent . On completing the construction of construction projects such as the Esso refinery and the Cleddau Bridge , those who decided to relocate to the town were faced with what the Preseli District Council called in 1977 " the area 's serious unemployment problem " .

Milford Haven is not ethnically diverse , with 96 @.@ 4 % of people identifying themselves as white , compared with 99 @.@ 2 % in 2001 . 92 @.@ 9 % of people in Milford Central ward were born in the UK , and only 3 @.@ 8 % of residents arrived later than 2001 . 96 @.@ 3 % of residents claim English as their first language . 1 @.@ 5 % of residents identify as having religious views other than any denomination of Christianity , including no religion .

= = = Welsh language = = =

Milford Haven is located within the geographical and historic area known as Little England Beyond Wales , which has predominately used English for many centuries . Although it is the most westerly point of the country and the part of the county furthest from the English border , a relatively small proportion of the community knows the Welsh language . In the 2011 census , only 7 @.@ 5 % of residents in the Milford Central ward claimed that they could speak , read and write the language , in contrast to the Pembrokeshire county as a whole where roughly 18 % of the population are able to read , write and speak Welsh , while in the neighbouring county of Carmarthenshire around 40 % of people express a similar level of fluency in Welsh . Local disconnection from the Welsh language was highlighted in November 2008 , when Milford Haven Town Council unsuccessfully demanded the right to opt out of a scheme in which official documents had to be translated into Welsh if requested ; the council was allegedly one of about 10 that opposed having to make such

translations .

= = Architecture = =

Architecture in Milford Haven can be divided into roughly three broad periods of building . The number of buildings which pre-date the town 's official foundation in 1790 are scarce . These include the Medieval priory , and a 12th century ' beacon chapel ' .

The initial phase of construction from the late 18th century is located in the area central to the town , the three parallel streets of Hamilton Terrace , Charles Street And Robert Street . Three -storey Georgian domestic and commercial properties are set along the northern side of the main road through the town , and overlook the harbour and waterway .

By the late 19th century , the land directly above this central area was being developed . To house the growing population , rows of terrace houses were built , which slowly encompassed the area north up to Marble Hall Road , and east to Pill , examples including Shakespeare Avenue and Starbuck Road . The Great North Road took a northerly route which sliced this new district in two . Suburban owner -occupied detached and semi-detached properties grew up on land overlooking the waterway and along the course of Steynton Road . Around the start of the 20th century , there was a recognized need to provide accommodation to poorer families . As a result , much former agricultural land was bought , and new Council Housing was built . These were frequently in large estates of houses , such as Howarth Close , Haven Drive and The Glebelands Estate . They transformed previously rural areas into an urban landscape , and considerably increased Milford 's area of housing . Council estates were built throughout the 20th century , one of the most recent and largest examples being The Mount Estate , which has been the scene of a number of anti-social incidents .

= = Landmarks = =

Attractions in the town include Fort Hubberstone , built in 1863 to defend the Haven as part of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Defence of the United Kingdom . Located in Gelliswick bay , it occupies a prominent position to the west of the town overlooking the Haven . Owned by Milford Haven Port Authority , the site is not currently open to the public , and has been the scene of non-fatal injuries to trespassers . In 2011 it was named as the fifth most endangered archaeological site in the UK by British Archaeology magazine . The ruins of an observatory , originally intended to be part of " The College of King George the Third founded at Milford " , can be found in Hakin . Construction of the building was abandoned in 1809 . Milford Haven Museum , located centrally in the docks area , is housed in the town 's oldest building , the Custom House which dates back to 1797 . Designed by Swansea architect , Jernigan , it was built for the storage of whale oil awaiting shipment for sale in London .

The Rath is a landscaped street on high ground , with panoramic views of the Haven . The land was used in the 18th century as a gun battery , and its eastern edge was the site of the Royalist fort constructed by Charles I known as Pill Fort . In the 1930s it became the home of an outdoor swimming pool , which was converted into a water gardens in 1990 . Milford Haven Waterway is the natural harbour on which the town stands and from which the town takes its name .

= = Culture and community = =

The Torch Theatre , opened in 1977 and designed by local architect Monty Minter , is one of only three repertory theatres in Wales , and possesses its own independent theatre company . The Pill Social Centre , operating since the 1950s , is a community hall and events venue , having hosted The Who and Gerry and the Pacemakers . Annual events in the town include the Pembrokeshire Fish Week in June , and the carnival in July . Milford Haven library , recently relocated to Havens Head Retail Park offers a full lending service and internet access . Milford Haven Museum , located in the marina , houses a collection which focusses on the maritime history of the town .

The Milford & West Wales Mercury weekly newspaper covers the Milford Haven and West Pembrokeshire area . It was founded in 1992 and following a merger of its editorial team with that of the Western Telegraph , its local office was closed in 2008 . The town is also home to several charities , including PATCH and Gwalia . The town 's Mount Estate provided the location for a BBC documentary entitled " The Mount : A Welsh Estate " , which received criticism locally for its portrayal of residents .

Milford Haven is twinned with Romilly @-@ sur @-@ Seine , France and Uman , Ukraine .

= = Sport and leisure = =

The town possesses a number of venues for sport and leisure . Milford Haven Leisure Centre offers various facilities , including a 25 @-@ metre indoor swimming pool , squash and tennis courts , a bowls hall and a dance studio . The Thornton Hall , located at Milford Haven School , has an indoor sports hall and artificial turf pitch . There are rugby union and association football clubs . Nautical activities are centered around the marina and Pembrokeshire Yacht Club in Gelliswick , which dates to 1923 . There is a golf club on the outskirts , which was founded in 1913

Milford Marina , the site of the former working docks , was re @-@ branded in 1991 and offers retail facilities , the town museum and entertainment . The Marina itself houses 360 berths for private boats .

= = Education = =

Primary and pre school education in Milford Haven is served by six state infant and primary schools and St Francis , a Roman Catholic primary school . Milford Haven town is served by junior , Infant , and nursery schools . Hakin pupils can attend Hakin Community School , an amalgamation of the former Hakin Junior School and Hakin Infants and Nursery Schools and the voluntarily controlled Hubberston Church in Wales VC Nursery and Primary . Secondary education is provided by Milford Haven School , a large comprehensive school with an enrolment of around 1200 pupils including the 6th form .

The MITEC School of Boatbuilding & Marine Engineering , a branch of Pembrokeshire College located in Milford Docks , offers courses in boatbuilding and marine engineering .

= = Places of worship = =

The people of Milford Haven in 2001 identified themselves as being under 1400 Christian out of near 1900 in total . The earliest known religious building in the area was the Benedictine priory , known as Pill Priory , which was dissolved during Henry VIII 's reign . Other early buildings included the Catholic St. Thomas a Becket chapel , a later ' beacon church ' , built around the 12th century which fell into disrepair but was reconsecrated in the 20th century .

The first religious building raised after Milford Haven was founded was St. Katharine 's and St. Peter 's , an Anglican church , it is considered to be the town 's parish church due to its central position within the town and the fact that it was built by Charles Francis Greville the founder of Milford Haven . Other Anglican buildings include St. David 's in Hubberston , St. Mary 's (1927) and the Church of the Holy Spirit (1971) in Hakin and St. Peter 's and St. Cewydd 's in Steynton . St. David 's is a Norman church and is believed to be the oldest building in Milford to be in regular use . St. Mary 's was built in 1927 largely by funds from the local residents of Hakin .

In 2000 , the church of St. Claires in Hakin closed , leaving one Roman Catholic church in Milford Haven , St. Francis of Assisi on Priory Road . Baptists congregate at North Road Baptist Church which is one of the older religious buildings of the community , built in 1878 . The Friends Meeting House (Quakers) , built in 1811 by the original Quaker whalers who were central to the early growth of the town , is in Priory Road . Quakers travel from distances around Pembroke to worship at the Friends House .

Members of both the Methodist and United Reformed Churches now worship at Christ Church in

Priory Road (formerly known as Priory Road Methodist Church which was opened in 1902) . In recent years the church has drawn together the Methodist Churches in Milford Haven , Hakin Point and Waterston as well as Tabernacle URC to form a new Local Ecumenical Partnership .

The building of Tabernacle URC in Charles Street closed in 2011 with the new united congregation moving to their new home in Christ Church . The old Tabernacle building is still used as a place of worship by the local Islamic community in the form of a Mosque .

= = Transport = =

The main road to the town is the A4076 from Haverfordwest , which connects with the A40 . The town centre 's road system is based on a grid pattern . The route to Hakin and the western side of the town is along the A4076 via Victoria Bridge over the docks .

Bus routes passing through the town are operated by independent companies and Pembrokeshire County Council subsidies . Services include a town circular , Haverfordwest , Pembroke Dock and St Davids . National Express operate services to both London and Rochdale via Steynton .

The first links to a railway to Milford Haven came through the completion of the South Wales Railway in 1856 . Brunel had a vision of connecting London to New York via a railway through Wales and then to a commuter port . The initial plan was to terminate the line at Fishguard and to create a ferry service to Ireland , but after a failure to complete Irish rail links the terminus was changed to New Milford , (Neyland) , which was completed in April 1856 . The first rail link direct to Milford Haven was completed in 1863 , which was originally conceived as a plan to create an impressive Milford to Manchester railway . The trains using the line were operated by Great Western Railway who had part funded the original railway . Today the town is served by Milford Haven railway station . The station , and all trains serving it , are operated by Arriva Trains Wales on the West Wales Line . It is the terminus , and from here , trains depart every two hours to Manchester Piccadilly via Carmarthen , Swansea , and Cardiff Central .

= = Notable people = =

See Category : People from Milford Haven

One of the earliest notable figures from the Milford Haven area is Howell Davis , a pirate born in 1680 . He was shot dead in 1719 on the Portuguese island of Príncipe . Other famous residents connected as seafarers include Isaac Davis , a former seaman who was engaged in the fur trade between the Pacific Northwest and China . He became an advisor to Kamehameha I and helped form the Kingdom of Hawaii . Milford Haven has produced , or attracted , several notable artists including Arthur Symons , poet , critic , and an art editor of The Savoy magazine , who was born in the town in 1865 , and Charles Norris , topographical artist , and author of A Historical Account of Tenby , who lived in Milford Haven from 1800 to 1810 .

Performing artists from Milford Haven include Helen Watts , a contralto who studied at the Royal Academy of Music and was awarded the CBE in 1978 , and singer @-@ songwriter Sarah Howells , founder member of the pop band Paper Aeroplanes . Film and TV actor George Winter (Scum , Merlin of the Crystal Cave) was also born in the town . Novelist Sarah Waters , although born in Neyland , attended Milford Haven Grammar School . Sir James Frederick Rees , born in 1883 and the son of a Hakin dock worker , pursued an academic career , becoming Principal of University College , Cardiff , and author of a number of historical texts , including The Story of Milford . Dorothy Meyler , born 1908 , joined University College of Wales , Aberystwyth in 1925 , and later enjoyed a successful career teaching in the university , in addition to publishing several academic works . Tailor and fashion designer Timothy Everest began his professional career working as a sales assistant at a branch of Hepworths in the town . Sporting figures include Robert Hughes , who in 2005 won the Wales National Darts Championship , and Andrew Salter , a batsman for Cardiff MCC University . Footballer Tommy Best played as a centre forward in the Football League for Chester City , Cardiff City and Queens Park Rangers . Another footballer from the town was Marwood Marchant , who played for Cardiff City and Torquay United . William Davies Evans , who from 1800

resided at Castle Pill with his family , is credited with the invention of the celebrated Evans Gambit , debuted in 1826 in London at his defeat of Alexander McDonnell Rosalyn Wild , a resident of the town , achieved fame in 2011 for charity work .

Milford Haven is also connected to notable military figures , such as Charles George Gordon , a British Army officer and administrator , remembered for his campaigns in China and northern Africa . During a two @-@ year stay in Pembroke , he prepared plans for fortifications of Milford Haven . Of those born in the town , Hubert William Lewis was awarded the Victoria Cross for acts of bravery during the First World War . W.G. " Gugs " Gwilliam was awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal for acts of bravery whilst serving on board the HMS Exeter during the Battle of the River Plate . Other residents include Robert Fulke Greville and his uncle Charles Francis Greville , who improved and expanded Milford Haven as a more commercial and modern settlement , and John Zephaniah Holwell , a surgeon employed by the English East India Company and survivor of the Black Hole of Calcutta , who owned " Castle Hall " in the 1770s . Samuel Lake is remembered for his ambitious bid to complete Milford Docks for £ 80 @,@ 000 in a mere seven months in 1880 , and his subsequent bankruptcy in 1883 which delayed actual completion for a number of years . An ecclesiastic figure to gain prominence from the town was Frederick Ebenezer Lloyd , an independent Catholic bishop who contributed to the early development of the American Catholic Church . He headed this organization as Primate and Metropolitan from 1920 to his death in 1933 .

Milford Haven is the birthplace of serial killer John Cooper , who in 2011 was convicted of murdering siblings Richard and Helen Thomas at their Scoveston home near Steynton in 1985 , and Peter and Gwenda Dixon on the Pembrokeshire Coast Path near Little Haven in 1989 . He was additionally convicted of the rape of a teenager and assault of four others in woodland near the town 's Mount Estate in 1996 .