



Update

Many of you will have had contact with Sarah, the administrator of Hampshire's Project Kraken. She managed your membership, created the newsletters and sent out the bulletins. If you were unfortunate enough to be the victim of marine crime it was probably Sarah who contacted you to make sure we had all the correct details and generally provided the excellent service that Hampshire Constabulary strives for.

We are delighted to tell you that Sarah has followed her chosen career path and we are proud to say she is continuing to provide an excellent service to the residents of Hampshire in her new role as a Police Community Support Officer [PCSO] and we know you will join us in wishing her a safe and successful career.

Sarah left us in August and you may have noticed that we have not been as regular with our bulletins and newsletters since. Rest assured we are now back on track!

We will resume our quarterly newsletters which will be a summary of incidents on the waters around our two counties and items of interest to the marine community. We will also post periodic bulletins about stolen property, crime trends and appeals for information as they are required. Both the newsletters and the bulletins will be available to view on the Project Kraken pages of the Hampshire Constabulary website (www.hampshire.police.uk/kraken).

We will be sending them out to harbourmasters, marinas and clubs to post them on their notice boards so that we reach the widest possible audience.

We will be sending out notifications on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/HantspolMarine>) when anything new is added to the Project Kraken website. We have been using Twitter for several months already and have an increasing number of followers, so please join us!

We are no longer able to hold details for individuals for a number of reasons, not least because there is no administrator to maintain them and therefore we cannot send out emails to each member directly.



Project Kraken Newsletter

Crime & Counter Terrorist Strategy

“Protecting the waters of the Solent”

Hampshire Marine Unit

We would like to take the opportunity to refresh you about the make up of the Unit. We are a team of nine police constables led by Sgt Tony Birr, with the use of three launches and a rib based on the Hamble. We are organised into three teams and although we all patrol the entire waters and coastline of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight each team has been allocated a geographic area to ensure we maintain the best possible links with the community.

In the east, the area which extends from the Sussex border in Chichester Harbour to Hill head, including all of Langstone Harbour and Portsmouth Harbour you have PCs Dave Spensley-Corfield, Andy Hewitt and Matt Gransden. From Hillhead around the coast to Hythe including the Rivers Hamble and Itchen and all of Southampton Water, you have PCs Steve Shaw, Mark Webb and Billy Boulton. For the Isle of Wight and the western Solent from Fawley down to the Dorset border you have PCs Nick McKinnon, Kerry Murray and David King.

We will be happy to deliver presentations to any club or organisation that feels it would be of benefit, please contact us to arrange.

Some of the team:



PS Tony Birr



PC Andy Hewitt



PC Dave Spensley-Corfield



PC Matt Gransden



PC Kerry Murray



PC Nick McKinnon



PC David King

Contact

For emergencies dial 999 but for other matters please dial 101 and quote Project Kraken to the call-taker.

For routine contact with any member of the team email is the best method

project.kraken@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

On the water our launches monitor Channel 16.

T: 0845 045 45 45

E: project.kraken@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

W: www.hampshire.police.uk/kraken



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Crime Matters

Good news for all of us, there has been a notable reduction in the numbers of marine crime incidents reported to police since June 2011. Compared to the period of June to December 2010, currently we have 242 reports as opposed to the 319 recorded last year in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. It is difficult to account for the reduction but we do know from experience that good community communication and awareness can reduce crime. Overall it is you, the community, who can have the biggest impact, if you take efforts to protect your property, remain vigilant and report suspicious activity. Together we can really impact on crime but it is important that you continue to report incidents to us.

Small outboard motors and dinghies and tenders are still the most popular items to be stolen. The dinghies are often simply used to travel locally and as long as we can identify the owner we have success in returning them. Please think about how we would identify and return yours to you if someone 'borrowed' it. Make sure that it is marked with something that links it to you such as a club name or postcode with house number.

Outboards, particularly small ones are easy to carry and very easy to sell on. If you are looking to purchase one please try to avoid buying from unknown sellers in public locations; if police find you in possession of an

outboard which has been reported stolen it will be recovered from you and, if you have no details of who sold it to you, you could well lose your money. Remember the website www.stolenboats.org.uk which is a free public site where you can easily check out serial numbers for all types of marine property but bear in mind that sometimes it takes a while for marine crime to be reported and updated.

We have had a number of successes with outboards, for example three people have recently been convicted of stealing or dishonestly handling outboards and trying to sell them locally from the Gosport area. This success arose following information from the local marine community and certainly stopped a potentially prolific team. Our ability to prosecute people rests with being able to prove the item is stolen in the first instance so you can see how important it is that you record your serial marks.

Canoes and kayaks seem to be becoming increasingly popular and unfortunately they are also becoming a favourite of thieves. Many do have serial numbers which again makes them much easier for us to check and circulate but if yours doesn't please make sure you mark it clearly. Recently a man has pleaded guilty to taking a kayak from Emsworth without permission. He will be sentenced for this and a number of other offences



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including the taking of a Chichester Harbour vessel.

Enquiries are also ongoing with a man from the Southampton area who hired canoes from a business in the Chichester Harbour area and failed to return them. Following concerns raised by a potential purchaser on eBay he was also suspected to be involved in the theft or disposal of an RS400 sailing dinghy stolen from the Southampton area in July this year.

The Marine Unit executed a warrant in July following a sighting of a large rib on rural land near Southampton. As a result of this investigation a Ballistic

7.8m rib with a 250hp engine was recovered and returned to its owner. Although no one has been charged with the theft of this boat it shows that local offenders have to store boats and if you notice anything out of the ordinary it's worth letting us know so we can check it out.

The Marine Unit noticed some unusual flora and fauna on a boat whilst on patrol on the River Itchen. On closer inspection several cannabis plants were discovered growing in planters, consequently a man has been reported for the offence of production of cannabis.

Ports Update

It is important to remember that our area attracts many international travellers and not all of them have our best interests at heart.

Not only do we ask you to report suspicious activity that you may witness along our coastline or afloat but also consider behaviour of people approaching the ferry ports.

On the 29th June 2011 a Moroccan man was stopped in the outbound lanes of Portsmouth Continental Ferry Port. He was stopped and spoken to by Special Branch officers. After conducting a search of the male and the vehicle he was travelling in officers seized £64,185.81 in cash, more than 54 mobile phones and a large number of cameras and laptops.

These items were seized under POCA legislation which enables the police to seize property and cash which they suspect to be the proceeds of criminal activity and a number of the electrical items were traced to victims of crime in the London area and returned.

The Moroccan male was charged with 29 offences including money laundering and handling stolen goods and after pleading guilty at Portsmouth Crown Court received a three-and-a-half-year prison sentence. The investigation will continue and attempts will be made to recover assets from this man and our colleagues at UKBA are investigating his immigration status.