



Project Kraken Newsletter

Strengthening our borders

Crime & Counter Terrorist Strategy



October 2014

Protecting the waters of the Solent

OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER



Border Force

NCA Run with Project Kraken



Cowes Week held mixed emotions for Hampshire Constabulary this year as, like parents waving their child off to University, we watched as Project Kraken was handed over to the National Crime Agency who came down to the Isle of Wight during the sailing event to re-launch and refresh the initiative. Having raised the Project since her birth in 2005, we are proud of what she has become but she has achieved everything she can under our guidance and having out grown us, it is only right to let our 'wee beastie' go and be all she can be!



Jokes aside, we are really passionate about Kraken in the Marine Unit and this development signifies an exciting opportunity for the UK's maritime enforcement agencies to work more closely in partnership than ever before. Officers in the NCA, Border Force and Police Forces around the country will now have the ability to share real-time intelligence and information with each other to strengthen our borders. The Project has also been given a corporate facelift by the NCA marketing team and the new artwork matches that of the sister initiative Project Pegasus which focuses on suspicious and unusual activity in the aviation sector. Having grown pretty fond of the now familiar monster in the corner of all our literature, we are slightly sentimental about her retirement in favour of a more modern image but we may sneak her in to future circulations so keep your eyes peeled and call us if you spot her! Whilst the artwork has changed, the message remains the same and we still want you to look out for suspicious and unusual stuff on the water and around the coast - things like the examples below:

- Crew who show signs of nervousness or a lack of maritime awareness
- Vessels showing signs of unusual modification or minor damage
- Increased activity at isolated coastal locations or at unusual times of the day
- Any attempts to signal to vessels offshore or guide them into an unusual landfall
- Strange patterns of payment, such as large amounts of cash
- People testing site security or an abnormal interest in site structures and wharfs
- Activity at unusual times of the day
- Anything that would help identify the people, vessels or other vehicles involved



During the re-launch, Detective Chief Superintendent Scott Wilson, from the National Counter Terrorism Policing HQ, said: "The UK is a highly attractive target for terrorists and, therefore, it is vital that people support police efforts by reporting any suspicious or unusual activity at waterways or ports across all parts of the country. "I would urge people to let police know immediately if they see anything which arouses their suspicions or seems out of place."

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Crime Review

July 2014

We expect a rise in incidents in July each year as the days get longer and school children suddenly have lots of time on their hands and this July was particularly busy. We had 159 Marine related incidents reported to us.

39 of these incidents related to matters of anti-social behaviour such as groups of youths swimming in rivers and

climbing on pontoons as well as nuisance caused by jet-skis in certain areas.

62 incidents related to the theft or attempted theft of Marine property and of these, there were 31 reports of outboard motors being stolen across the two counties. As we have explained in the past, it is often impossible to begin to assess the pattern and frequency of marine thefts at the time they actually occur because few people are in a position to check their boat daily. Series of thefts and crime trends on the water tend to become clear weeks and even months later so we find we are regularly playing catch up.

July saw the identification of 3 distinctive areas that were regularly targeted by thieves on different occasions during the month.

We had 8 reports of outboard engines being targeted in Keyhaven and there were also other incidents of thefts from vessels moored around the harbour - thanks to the pro-active approach by the River Warden Roy



Plummer, we were alerted to this trend very quickly. Roy was able to warn many of his customers who keep their boats in the harbour and our land-based colleagues in the New Forest increased their night time patrols in the area - see successes.

During the same time frame, 6 outboards and a kayak were stolen in the area around Emsworth and we received reports of several thefts of oars and tenders around the harbour too. We are confident the tenders were being used to facilitate access to the bigger boats where larger items were taken.

Langstone Harbour was also hit with 6 outboard thefts and several other incidents of theft from vessels were reported where electronic navigation equipment and engine parts were stolen.



What makes these three locations a good place to go and steal? Like many areas of water, they are isolated and the chance of being caught is slim which is why some of our remote boatyards and marinas have begun to run their own night-watch rotas.

In addition to these three series of crimes, we suffered 3 high-value thefts from driveways. A 5.4 m Predator RIB was stolen from an address in Titchfield and a 150hp Yamaha engine was stolen from the back of a boat on a driveway in Southampton. A trailered Coastline 800 RIB fitted with a Suzuki 300hp was also stolen from an address in Southampton after thieves intentionally rammed a vehicle out of the way to make room to tow the stolen boat away - more on this in successes.

What was really pleasing is that 29 of the marine incidents in July were reports of suspicious and unusual activity called in by you under Project Kraken - a testament to how vigilant everyone has been in response to our bulletins.

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Crime Review continued

August 2014

You will be pleased to hear that August was less eventful with 64 marine related incidents reported to us in total. 13 of these calls related to anti-social behaviour and 14 reports were made about suspicious and unusual activity under Project Kraken.

There were only 20 reports of theft and attempted theft compared with the 62 from the month before highlighting just how big a spike we had in July. Of these thefts, 8 were reports of outboards being taken which was a welcome drop from the month before.

On the River Hamble, a Lodestar dinghy was stolen with the outboard motor still attached to it but was recovered in a different part of the river. We had



two very similar thefts of tenders with outboards in the Hamble during July as well where boats were cut away from pontoons. Remember, if you can get it off the water or remove the outboard, it will be less tempting to a thief.

Emsworth sailing club was also targeted and two sailing boats being stored in the secure compound had sails and rudder gear removed from under their covers.

On the Island we were alerted to a small outboard being stolen from a vessel down in Freshwater Bay and another larger 40hp outboard being taken from the back of a RIB being stored at a caravan park. Have a look at our successes page for an update on this job.

Only one attempted outboard theft was reported in Keyhaven during August.

September 2014

September saw a further decline in marine incidents reported to us with only 47 on our records. As we would expect with the start of the new school term, anti-social behaviour incidents dropped to 7 and your vigilance continued with 10 suspicious and unusual incidents reported under Project Kraken.

There were 25 incidents of theft reported and of those, 12 were thefts or attempted thefts of outboard engines.

Most notably, a Suzuki 140hp outboard engine was stolen from the Lymington area over night on 16th September - we then received a report that the Calshot rescue boat had a 40hp Suzuki outboard engine removed from the back of it at some time between the 16th and the 20th September. These engines are worth a combined total of about £22,000 and given the organised approach that the thieves took during these offences we believe the offences are linked and were carried out by the same people. Were you in the area on the night of the 16th? Did you see anyone acting suspiciously around the area or any vehicles suitable for transporting two large outboards?



There were also 3 outboard thefts around the area of Haslar Creek and the Gosport side of Portsmouth Harbour from boats on the water which seems to be a regular theme during most months of the year. Please be vigilant for people using small tenders from the Gosport and Haslar Creek shoreline during the hours of darkness and report their movements to us, we may have persistent offenders in this area and your call could be the one that helps us to catch them in the act and prevent further problems - see successes for a recent development on this particular issue.

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Successes

After reading pages 2 and 3, we always aim to try and cheer you up by sharing some of our success stories and update you on how we have managed to foil the criminals. In the last three months we have had some really positive results in every area of our two counties that have led to the recovery of marine property and the identification of offenders we believe are responsible for some of the trends highlighted in the crime review.

Whilst we can't disclose too much, we are happy to report that Police recently deployed a traceable marine asset in the Chichester Harbour area in response to the rising crime levels - the asset acts a bit like a bait car and allows us to keep track of where it is taken after being stolen. Within days of putting the device in the field, officers were alerted that it had been stolen and successfully tracked it to an offender's address. We cannot disclose details of the offender at this time but we are very confident his arrest will have a significant impact in reducing further incidents in the area - September's figures would support this theory with no further thefts being reported around Chichester Harbour in the last month.

In mid-August, police were alerted by a vigilant member of the public in Keyhaven that two males were in the act of stealing fuel containers and other items from boats near the quayside. Officers deployed to the area and managed to locate the offenders as they left the scene in a vehicle - they still had the property with them and are likely to be charged with the offences. Again, this incident has had a significant impact on thefts in the Keyhaven area with no outboards being taken since their arrest.

In the July review, we described how thieves rammed a car out of the way in order to steal a Coastline RIB on a trailer from a Southampton driveway. We can only give a limited update at this stage but we are pleased to report that enquiries

by Southampton CID officers have led to a male's arrest in Leicestershire.

On the Isle of Wight we have suffered sporadic crime around the east coast areas of Bembridge and Freshwater. After the recent theft of a kayak in the area, the aggrieved identified his boat tied to the roof of a van leaving the scene and after quick thinking led him to record the number plate, he alerted us and local officers were able to trace the van and arrest the driver. During the arrest, officers also recovered a stolen outboard engine from the rear of the same van - the driver now has some questions to answer!

As usual, we have more good reports from the River Hamble where PC Mark Arnold has got a brilliant neighbourhood Kraken initiative running which we aim to emulate across the two counties. Mark was able to track down a stolen RIB and outboard to a driveway where residents explained that a male knocked on their door and claimed to have broken down asking to leave the boat there over night - be wary of this tactic by thieves. In addition, a dinghy that was cut free from a jetty on the west of the river was recovered from a mooring a mile away after a description was swiftly circulated around the Hamble Kraken members - awesome work.

In Portsmouth Harbour, two males were seen acting suspiciously around the slipway near Forton Lake by a member of the public who called police straight away - local officers arrived promptly and found them walking away from a small boat which was later shown to be stolen. They are currently being dealt with for this matter.

Finally, another great example of the sort of call we want from you:- A family who sailed to France were leaving the French port when they noticed a group of men suspiciously loading an English registered fishing vessel with luggage. The vessel was intercepted in Poole and the males were checked - they turned out to be legitimate but this is what you should tell us about!

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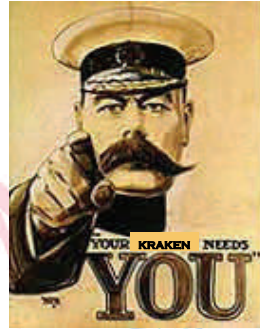
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Project Kraken needs YOU

You may be familiar with the tag-line 'If you suspect it, report it' concerning the confidential anti-terrorist hotline, but how relevant are these initiatives to you in Hampshire and how seriously will the police take any information reported?

The answer to both questions is very, as evidenced by the recent activity carried out by Hampshire Constabulary in partnership with The South East Counter Terrorism Unit (SECTU). On 14th October, officers from Hampshire Constabulary along with colleagues from SECTU and the Metropolitan Police Service conducted a number of warrants across Hampshire and London. Three men and three women were arrested at two addresses in Portsmouth; one address in Farnborough and one in Greenwich. Whilst it is important to reassure you that this police activity has been in relation to conflicts overseas and is not linked to any immediate threat to local communities or UK interests, it serves as a timely reminder that would-be terrorists are suspected to be active here on the south coast as well as other areas of the UK. It also demonstrates that where necessary, the Police Service WILL act to counter this threat. Threats such as those countered today can only be identified through information provided by our partners and you, the public. The Hampshire coastline is home to some high profile potential targets as well as the UK's largest leisure and commercial maritime community who can help to be the eyes and ears of the Police Service. If you see anything suspicious or unusual, don't be afraid to report it to us. Whilst it may turn out to be nothing, we all have a responsibility to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity. Please be reassured that information received on the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline is thoroughly analyzed before any police action is taken.



We would like people to look out for the unusual - some activity or behavior which strikes you as not quite right or out of place in their normal day to day lives. No-one knows the maritime environment better than you – the people who live, work and spend their leisure time afloat. In particular consider:

- *Terrorists need storage - Lock-ups, garages and sheds can all be used by terrorists to store equipment. Are you suspicious of anyone renting commercial property around your marina or boatyard?*
- *Terrorists use chemicals - Do you know someone buying large or unusual quantities of chemicals for no obvious reason?*
- *Terrorists need funding - Cheque and credit card fraud are ways of generating cash. Have you seen any suspicious transactions take place?*
- *Terrorists use multiple identities - Do you know someone with documents in different names for no obvious reason?*
- *Terrorists need information - is someone taking an interest in security, like CCTV cameras for no obvious reason? This is particularly relevant around sites such as Fawley oil refinery or the Portsmouth Dockyard.*
- *Terrorists need transport - If you work in the boat sales or charter industry, has a sale or charter made you suspicious?*

If you have any information you think may be relevant then please contact us in one of the following ways. You can remain totally anonymous if you wish:

Call the Confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789321

Call 101 and quote "Project Kraken"

IF YOU NOTICE SUSPICIOUS BAGS, BEHAVIOUR OR VESSELS WHICH POSE AN IMMINENT THREAT, CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY.

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Flare Enough



Throughout this summer, we have been working alongside Ramora UK, Hampshire Constabulary's Explosive Ordnance Disposal partner, holding a series of flare amnesties at local marinas. To date, we have collected

approximately 14,000 out of date marine flares for disposal.

Many of the flares handed in were considered too unsafe to transport and Ramora staff conducted controlled burns of these flares at each location. The oldest flare collected was a 1940's wooden handled Wessex hand flare.



Although the disposal service has been offered free of charge, Ramora requested a donation and the proceeds are so far sufficient to purchase two laser sailing dinghies for use by a local organisation that introduces children

to the delights of sailing.

We have been overwhelmed by the success of the initiative this year and we are hugely grateful to Ramora for their support - there are a great many vessels sailing in our waters that are safer now than they were at the start of the summer thanks to this disposal service. Not had time to come to one of the events yet? Still got some old flares in the back of your garage.....don't worry: Our last amnesty of the year will be held at Hamble Point Marina from 1000hrs on Sunday 19th October.



Marinechester United

The Hampshire Marine Unit were asked to moor up for the night and take part in the Southampton Boat Show 5-a-side football tournament this year. We misunderstood the invitation and accidentally agreed to join the other 15 teams at Goals Soccer Centre in Milbrook!

The event has been run by Mike Shepherd and the Marine Advertising Agency for several years now and the proceeds go to support the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at Southampton General Hospital who we were glad to support.

It was only after the whistle went for the first match that we remembered football isn't a strong suit for 9 of us but thanks to Andy who we now suspect is actually Brad Friedel in disguise, the scores remained respectable. In fact, by the end of the night Big Dave and Sgt Damon had begun to showboat a little bit and actually scored a goal each which shocked us as much as our opponents. Despite a valiant effort, we were one of the tournament's least successful team consistently coming second in all our matches!



Left to Right

Top: Matt, Ski, Nick, Big Dave, Olly, Tim

Bottom: Brad Friedel, Sgt Damon, Kerry, Billy

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Diary Dates

19 October

-

Flare Amnesty at Hamble Point Marina

2 November

-

East Hants Boat Jumble, Havant Leisure Centre

Who are we?

Our newest team member PC Alex Stypulkowski (Ski) takes the hot seat...

How many years in Hampshire Police?

7 years

What have you done?

I have worked in Whitehill for most of my service on the response team and then the neighbourhood team

What's your best moment to date?

Working as a police coxswain on the RIBs during the Olympic Games

Most embarrassing moment?

During the sad aftermath of dealing with a lady who died I arranged for her cat to be re-homed by the RSPCA. Two days later, we received a missing cat report from her next door neighbour who used to let his cat visit the deceased on a regular basis...I hasten to add I did manage to get his cat back for him

Why the Marine Unit?

I genuinely love boats and being out on the water and I joined Hampshire Police because they had a Marine Unit—it's what I've always wanted to do

Likes?

Good Manners

Dislikes?

(Obviously Bad manners) and untidiness

How do you waste your Rest Days?

Being on the water be it sailing or water sports or tinkering with Land Rovers and anything else with an engine. Sometimes I get dragged along to go hiking with my wife as well!

Favourite Meal?

Curry - I normally go for Chicken Tikka Masala with a Naan and Onion Bahji

Sail or Power?

I have to say both - sailing for leisure purposes to enjoy the journey but power for getting to places!

You can have any boat?

I would go for a big Swan or Oyster sailing yacht - a Swan 60ft in blue and highly polished

Any car?

Land Rover Defender 110 in Gunmetal grey with black wheels

Secret Talent?

I can play the Harmonica (I'm very rusty now....like my harmonica)

Desert Island Discs—3 albums to take with you?

**Bruce Springsteen—Born to Run
Nickelback—Silverside up
Eagles—Hotel California**

