



# Project Kraken Newsletter

Strengthening our borders

Crime & Counter Terrorist Strategy



December 2013

*Protecting the waters of the Solent*

## DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

### WINTER WARNER

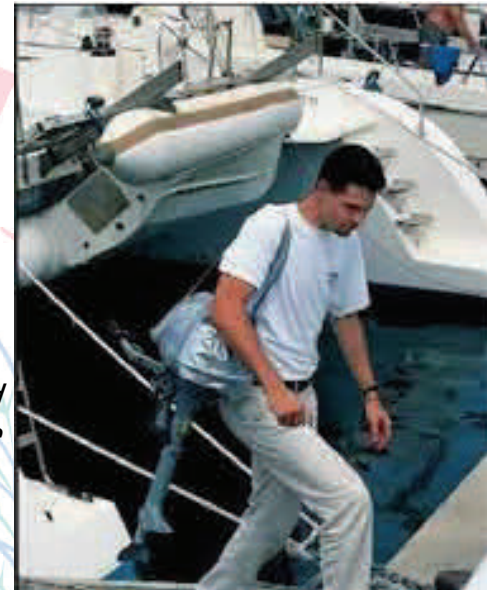
Although the winter so far is mild, many boats are now being secured on their moorings or lifted out and stored for the winter – a prime time for thieves to strike.



Unfortunately, we have already experienced one spate of incidents in the Cowes area where a number of unattended moored vessels were broken into and property which had been left on board was stolen, ranging from generators to TV's and freeview boxes. Following some great work by the local Cowes Neighbourhood Policing Team, a local male has now been arrested for these offences and the majority of property recovered but it is a stark reminder of how vulnerable your property is on your boat whilst it is left afloat.

We also suffered a break at a large boat yard based in Marchwood in the early part of November where a tender, an outboard and two inboard motors were stolen along with non-marine related property – experience shows that your boat can be targeted on land as well as on the mooring. One of our team likes to use the analogy of leaving your car in a car park for 4 months with a Sat Nav device stuck in the windscreen – few of us would expect to return and find it still in situ! Strangely we seem less conscientious with more valuable property left on our boats? As always, our message for the winter is: Spend the extra hour or so stripping the boat of anything valuable, especially smaller outboard motors and electronic kit.

Please help us to provide you with an excellent service by following these simple recommendations:



**W**rite down serial numbers and use the Immobilise website to store your information

**I**dentifiable property is easy to return to the owner – mark items with indelible ink

**N**ever leave removable valuables on board

**T**ake photographs and descriptions of items that you are unable to remove

**E**nsure regular checks are done of your vessel during the winter

**R**eport any suspicious or criminal activity promptly

We accept that not all property is easily removed!



There will always be things left behind. Where larger engines and other valuable items are concerned, ensure that they are secured to the vessel—make your boat a difficult target for the criminal and encourage them to

look elsewhere, they will want to be quick and quiet so delay them and complicate their task.



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## Crime Review

### October 2013

We had 39 matters brought to our attention during this month, of which 25 are marine crimes. We try to introduce new subjects of interest in our newsletters but some things unfortunately never change and one is that outboard motors are the most likely marine items of yours to be stolen, particularly small outboards. We had two motors a week taken through this month and although this is down on previous years we still believe we can do better and reduce it further. This month we had a 4hp go from Fareham Creek, a Mercury 3.5hp from the Hamble, a Yamaha 2 hp from Gosport, a Mariner 5hp from Portsmouth Harbour, a Yamaha 25hp from Yarmouth and a Suzuki 4hp from Hayling Island. All of these were on boats or dinghies afloat, in boat parks or other areas that the public could access. Please, please take your outboards home or at least get them out of sight. Keep records of the serial numbers and put additional marks on such as postcodes and house numbers. There was an attempt to steal three larger outboards from boats on the Beaulieu River which was probably foiled by good security raising the alert.



In Gosport thieves took a Fletcher Sabre speed boat, have a look at the stolen property bulletin for full details.

A grey and black Plastimo dinghy was taken from the upper reaches of the Hamble river.

On the Isle of Wight as mentioned on the front pages we noted the start of a string of offences in the Cowes area and were able to respond quickly with the local officers to appeal to the public to check their property and to report any suspicious

activity.

The offenders were active on the water and stole mainly fishing gear and also anything else they stumbled upon. Many criminals shy away from the effort of marine crime but if they have access and a little knowledge they tend to commit offences regularly.

### November 2013

The offences being committed on the Island at Cowes continued sporadically through November with the offenders helping themselves to alcohol, clothing, tools and more fishing equipment from a number of boats. Of the 44 incidents reported to us this month, more than a quarter were reports of suspicious activity so thank you for your vigilance and willingness to contact police.

In Gosport several boats were boarded and damaged, two youths were arrested after local boat owners and staff from the marina worked closely with police. Unfortunately on this occasion there was not sufficient evidence to prosecute but being arrested is often an effective deterrent to future criminality and lets suspects know that the marine environment is not a soft target.

Elsewhere more outboards stolen with a 9.9 hp Tohatsu taken from the top of the Hamble. The owner had only recently bought it second hand and had not recorded the serial number. Please use [www.stolenboats.org.uk](http://www.stolenboats.org.uk) before you part with

**stolenboats**  
.org.uk

your cash, to check out any engine you are looking at and keep a record of the number. A 2.5hp Suzuki was taken from a shed in the Cobden area of Southampton and an 8hp Honda was taken from a yacht at Warsash. In Southampton a battery was taken from a boat, it may be worth removing them if your boat is laid up, they are expensive to replace and very difficult to identify.





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## Crime Review continued

In Langstone Harbour a portable stove and VHF radio were taken from one yacht and another boat had items disturbed on deck but fortunately there was nothing stolen. At Southsea a 10ft GRP dinghy was taken despite being locked up. The white dinghy has been marked with the number E06 so give us a call if you spot it.

Over at Wootton, thieves managed to take a 70hp Evinrude from a boat on the water. They left the boat adrift minus the engine and it was reported to QHM and was recovered to Portsmouth.



Back in Southampton a Yamaha Jetski was stolen in a burglary from a garage. We have full details and the Datatag security was registered so it will be easy to check and identify.

A number of high value items were stolen during a burglary in Marchwood on 14th November and full details are available on the bulletin dated 9/12/13. In addition to the boats and engines, computer equipment and lots of tools were taken.

### December

There was a determined effort to steal a Suzuki 4hp outboard from rural land near Ventnor on the Isle of Wight, we often never know if these offences show some previous knowledge or if they are opportunist. We have details and hope that if someone is offered the engine they will check it and alert police. Also on the Isle of Wight there was a dispute over a dinghy which had been left for sometime, apparently abandoned and then claimed by a 'new' owner. These issues can cause bad feeling between people and financial loss and are easily avoided if we clearly mark property so that ownership can not be argued. If you leave

property for long periods seemingly unloved it stands to reason that someone else may be tempted to claim it. There is an offence of theft by finding so make sure that you take reasonable steps to trace owners.

Thieves have stolen an old wartime German Very flare gun from a shed in Southampton. This is a weapon that requires a firearms licence, it is illegal to have it without one and is also potentially dangerous.



We had 21 reported incidents to police during December of which 10 are crimes. Several of these occurred ashore and include the theft of a Suzuki and a Yamaha outboard from Newport, Isle of Wight. Enquiries are ongoing into a report of someone breaking into and staying on board a boat in the Lymington area. It is more common at this time of year to have parts stolen from boats, there were navigation lights stolen from a boat in Havant and some covers taken from a Beneteau motorboat in Swanwick, Fareham.

Over the last few years the number of incidents reported to us have generally reduced and as long as people are reporting their concerns to us then we are happy with this trend. We work hard on the Marine Unit to engage with our community and rely on you to report anything that you think we will be able to assist with. Of the reports that we have received this year, approximately 350 are recorded crimes, a drop of over 100 on the last year. We also deal with many other incidents such as missing people, security threats, suspicious behaviour, maritime law, accidents and deaths. Please contact us if you think we can help you with something and especially report any marine crime.

T: 101 or 999 in emergency

E: [project.kraken@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:project.kraken@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

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## Successes

### Well, I thought it was odd....

Nearly a third of the reports that are made to us from you are things that have caused you some sort of concern. Concern that someone is in danger, someone is going to steal or damage something. All of these reports whether they are reported on the 999 system, 101 or by email will be looked at by police and we will always try to let you know a result. We want to get your calls, we will be clear if it is something that we can deal with or if we will pass it on to a more appropriate agency. Here are just a few of the outcomes that your calls have led to in the last few months.

A vigilant beach walker reported seeing a person removing a top mark and solar panel from a stranded buoy and even managed to get details of a car for us. It turned out to be an agent for the owners but was easily checked out because of the accurate details obtained.

A report of a male acting strangely in Southampton Docks turned out to be a Foreign National who had overstayed his visa in the UK and was also later charged with a burglary in London. Two men with torches on the pontoons turned out to be the fire brigade, whilst two other reports of people around boats were confirmed theft offences. You had concerns about people net fishing and bait digging which we were able to pass on to the right agencies to deal with. The other reports could easily be an offence in the making but your vigilance could well have deterred the offenders and saved another person from being a victim. We want to thank you and encourage you to keep calling. We are not asking you to put yourselves or anyone else at risk but gather as much detail as you can, descriptions, vehicle registrations and let us know. We will protect your identity and treat your information confidentially as well as deciding how to progress it.

### Back to the Isle of Wight.

The local Policing team at Cowes on the Island have completed some excellent work in response to the recent crimes. In mid December local Officer PC 24492 Egerton assisted by volunteer, Special Constable 99227 Wareing responded quickly to information and 28 year old Marcus DOMINEY, a local man was detained on a boat, arrested and charged with a number of offences . DC Rochford



tells us they have recovered a large quantity of property much of which has been identified but there is still property yet to be identified and claimed including fishing equipment and

these Garmin electronics. If you keep your boat in the Cowes area and have not checked it yet please go and have a look. Police can not keep property unless they know it is stolen. This offender will be before the courts later this week.

### Drinking and Driving ....1000s of cars simultaneously?

Just after Christmas, Police were called to the docks following concerns that the captain of a 68,000 tonne vessel loaded with cars was under the influence of alcohol. Fortunately the vessel was under the direct control of a qualified ABP pilot as it came into the Port of Southampton. When she was safely alongside Roads Policing Unit officers boarded and arrested the captain who has since been charged with offences under the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 and is remanded in custody to appear before the court at the end of this month. These matters are rightly taken very seriously by our courts and instances are rare.

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## Operation Solfire



During the exercise, the Hampshire Police Marine Unit used Commander and Protector to provide transport for HFRS out to the vessel which had supposedly gone to anchor, where a simulated assessment took place which deemed that the vessel could be taken alongside safely. During this assessment we provided waterside support for the members of all agencies whose task it was to board the vessel and maintained a security perimeter around the exercise with the assistance of VTS launches.

Once alongside the casualties were treated and evacuated whilst the security of the scene was maintained to provide a safe and managed environment for all agencies to carry out their relevant roles.

Following the incident there was a full debrief - many lessons were learned to better prepare all agencies for major incidents in our waters. With the millions of visitors to our waters every year, it is vital we are all ready for anything as one team.

In November the Marine Unit took part in a joint exercise hosted by Southampton Harbour Master Vessel Traffic Services, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, South Central Ambulance Service, Maritime Coastguard Agency and RNLi in a simulated incident on a vessel in Southampton Docks where a fire had taken place and casualties were trapped on board.

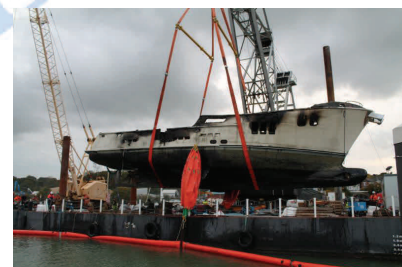
## Simulated to Real—Fire in Cowes destroys 75 ft Yacht Kahu



On 5th November 'Kahu', a 70 ft luxury yacht moored at East Cowes Marina tragically went up in flames. Most importantly, no one was onboard and there were no casualties from the incident but despite the best efforts of Cowes Harbour staff, Fire and Rescue crews and other agencies on scene the vessel

could not be saved. One of our teams responded to the incident and officers commented afterwards that it was a stark reminder of how quickly things can go wrong on a boat — the fire took hold so rapidly that had it been at sea, there would have been little time to send a Mayday and abandon ship into a life-raft with the extreme heat and smoke.

Swift actions by the Harbour staff and oil spill response crews on the scene in activating the harbour emergency response plan meant that the vessel holding 8000 litre of marine diesel was contained and safely salvaged on 12 November. The remains of the *Kahu* have now been transported by a flat top barge to Camber Dock, Portsmouth for disposal. Andrew Healy, Counter Pollution and Salvage Officer at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, concluded: "This was a model multi-agency response to a complex pollution incident, and there was very minimal impact on the local environment as a result."



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## Dorset joint working with MMO

November saw some exciting new work come the Marine Unit's way in the form of collaborative working with the Marine Management Organisation and Dorset Police Marine Section.

The MMO had requested our assistance in tackling illegal fishing activity off the Dorset coast within the 6 mile and 12 mile limits. On 23 November Billy, Kerry and Dave took Commander and Protector down to Portland in Dorset which was to become our home for the next four days. We travelled down with one of our Dorset colleagues and on arrival met with officers from the MMO - within an hour we were straight out to work heading to enforce a strictly prohibited area in Lyme Bay designed to protect the depleted sole stocks in one of their primary breeding grounds. Several vessels were checked in and around the zone.

The next few days were spent identifying and tracking fishing vessels up to 15 miles offshore - various types of vessel were located and boarded such as potters, beam trawlers and scallop boats to name just a few. Those that were of particular interest to the MMO were rigorously checked.

***A trawler being checked close to the 12 mile limit***



Some of the activities recorded by the MMO were noted to ensure allocated fishing quotas were being adhered to and they were particularly interested in monitoring vessels to ensure that the illegal practice of transshipping (clandestine movements of fish from one vessel to another at sea) was not taking place.

***Coming Around Portland Bill after a long day at sea***



The work we conducted is part of an ongoing cross border operation being run by the MMO and many of the vessels they are interested in around Dorset, operate in Hampshire waters on a regular basis - we got some good tips on who to look out for and what we can check to assist the MMO in their role.

It was an interesting and enjoyable few days, which gave us more of an insight into the important work that our colleagues at the MMO undertake.

Our presence and equipment enabled them to carry out this work more effectively and enabled us to get more acquainted with neighbouring waters and use our electronic equipment to full effect. One vessel we tracked on our radar turned out to be more than the fishing vessel we thought we were stalking, as out of the mist loomed a Royal Navy type 45 Destroyer! On this occasion they were let off with a stern look and we quickly changed course towards something more our own size, whistling innocently as we went.....



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## Events for the Diary

For a list of boat jumbles in 2014 have a look at the following link:-

<http://www.boatjumbleassociation.co.uk>

<b>London Boat Show, Excel Centre -</b>	<b>04 - 12 January 2014</b>
<b>Dorset Boat Jumble, Canford Park Arena, Poole -</b>	<b>29th March 2014</b>
<b>Beaulieu Boat Jumble -</b>	<b>27th April 2014</b>
<b>Solent Spring Jumble, Victoria Country Park, Netley -</b>	<b>11th May 2014</b>
<b>Seawork, Southampton -</b>	<b>10 -12 June 2014</b>
<b>Titchfield, Hound Hill Farm, Segensworth -</b>	<b>6th July 2014</b>
<b>Portsmouth, Fort Purbrook, Portsdown Hill Road -</b>	<b>17 August 2014</b>
<b>Southampton Boat Show -</b>	<b>12 - 21 September 2014</b>

### Who are we?

In this issue, we put PC Paul Boulton (Billy to his friends) on the spot. He has served on the Marine Unit for 2 years and has just passed his Yachtmaster Offshore exam with flying colours!



**Favourite Meal?**

*Hot Curry*

**Its sunny (next year some time!), you've got leave, what do you do?**

*Go for a run and finish with a BBQ (and beer)*

**Likes?**

*Not taking life too seriously*

**Dislikes?**

*Liars*

**You can have any car?**

*Porsche 911 Turbo*

**And any boat?**

*Sunseeker gin palace (with Jacuzzi)*

**You can have dinner with three people?**

*Winston Churchill, Jimmy Carr and Freddy Mercury*

**Favourite Holiday Destination?**

*Maldives*

**A fact your colleagues don't know about you?**

*I went on a stag do with Matt Le Tissier*

**Motto to live by?**

*You're a long time dead*

**Best bit of being in the police?**

*The camaraderie*

**...and the Worst?**

*Bureaucracy*

**Most embarrassing police moment?**

*I once got photographed topless in the paper (page 3) when we changed from blue to white shirts!*

**What was your first arrest for?**

*Shoplifting*

**Biggest change in your time in the police?**

*The computer*

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