



Project Kraken Newsletter

Strengthening our borders

Crime & Counter Terrorist Strategy



July 2014

Protecting the waters of the Solent

JUNE 2014 NEWSLETTER

Operation Agaton - Organised Outboard Thefts

You will remember from the last newsletter and the stolen bulletin that we circulated recently that the Isle of Wight suffered what appeared to be, a pre-planned theft of several outboards and control gear at the River Yar boatyard in March 2014 where thieves attacked 7 boats being stored in the compound stealing approximately £50,000 of gear. We eluded to the fact that there was an ongoing investigation and early evidential indications were that an organised crime group was behind the job. In the last 3 months the Isle of Wight Investigation Team (pictured below with Matt on our RIB)



developed several leads on this incident and after a huge amount of work behind the scenes they identified 4 suspects.

Matt and Kerry from the Marine Unit accompanied 4 members of the Isle of Wight team led by DS Simon Driver to Lincolnshire to execute Operation Agaton. PC Dave Hughes ran the operation and having split into pairs, we raided several addresses in the Boston and Peterborough areas with help from

Lincolnshire's Tactical Support Group.



The raids were a resounding success ending in the arrest of three Lithuanian males and the seizure of many items of property for analysis in relation to potential evidence that will help link the suspects to the thefts.

Dave and the team are currently putting all the evidence together to be presented to the CPS for a charging decision in the coming weeks.

This incident is one of a number of highly organised thefts that have occurred across the country over the last couple of years and serves as a stark reminder that criminal gangs will adapt and operate in all areas of our society where there is money to be made...and there is an awful lot of money clamped to the back of your boats in the form of outboards! More importantly, the incident highlights the importance of the Project Kraken message:

Vigilance in our marine communities and a willingness on your part to report unusual and suspicious activity is our best defence in preventing instances of terrorism and serious organised crime.

The investigation has shown that the suspects visited the boatyard prior to the theft and there are strong indications that their behaviour was out of place and suspicious whilst they were on and near the site: There were opportunities for the public to call us and express their concern. In the last month we have received loads of examples of exactly this kind of report from you and it is this awareness and willingness to speak with us that is vital in combating the baddies—keep it up!

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Crime Review

April 2014

This month was marked by several groups of incidents around the county. At the start of the month we had a report of torchlight seen on a boat near Gosport which was followed up a couple of days later by a call about a dinghy with property in it at Priddy's Hard. Our colleagues from the Coastguard attended initially and spoke with a couple of males who returned to the boat whilst they were there. As a result an outboard and dinghy have been returned to their owners before they knew they were gone and police are progressing the investigation. At Lee on the Solent we assume that offenders were disturbed as, although padlocks were cut off an engine, nothing was stolen. Just goes to show that any security measures can help.



In Netley two Tera dinghies were taken from their launching trolleys and offenders tried to use them without sails on Southampton Water. Both sailing dinghies have been recovered and returned to the club. At Hythe the compound for a sailing club was entered and a number of boats were broken into and some fuel was taken. Please mark your fuel can with a post code.



In a Lymington Marina we saw a repeat of a series of 5 boats ashore entered and general nuisance being committed which was similar to a series earlier in the year. There are lines of enquiry being followed by the local team which we hope will identify a suspect. There was also a report of a 15hp outboard stolen in the Lymington area but we do not have a serial number to circulate.

A Yamaha jetski was stolen from the New Forest but was returned to the owner very quickly as for some reason it was left in a lay-by on the A36 near Salisbury.

On Hayling Island we had a report of an outboard motor being stolen from a boat, the offender(s) also broke into a shed in an adjacent Sailing Club. The outboard motor has been recovered but no suspects have been identified at this stage.

In Portsmouth a rib was taken from the water. We know now that it was moved under the cover of the area under the Spinnaker Tower and the Gosport Ferry pontoon to allow offenders to remove parts from the boat including the Yamaha 50 hp outboard. If you ever see anyone in an area that is a bit out of the ordinary please report it. For a number of reasons — it might be nothing but.....!

May 2014

A 14ft Dolphin boat trailer with blue mudguards was stolen from the Scout HQ in Southampton overnight on 18th/19th. Three males wearing balaclavas were seen to lift it over the fence and leave in a small silver car. Elsewhere in Southampton we had a couple of kayaks stolen from a garage and on the A31 a Q International kayak was taken from a lay-by. Kayaks are very popular, please record serial numbers and keep a photo. We had an orange Venture Flex 11 Kayak stolen from



Winchester and a yellow and orange Ocean Frenzy from Gurnard on the Isle of Wight. In Thorness Bay the hull of a red and white Topper sailing dinghy has gone missing, it did not have any of its rigging on board. Cowes Harbour Commission staff have recovered an Ocean Frenzy and we are trying to find the owner.

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Crime Review continued

Near Langstone Bridge two boats were boarded, flares were taken from both as well as a Garmin GPS Plotter and Kenwood stereo equipment. The yachts can be seen easily from the bridge, did you see anything odd between the 20th of April and 12th of May this year? There has been further activity here in the last week of June, a boat owner was watching suspicious activity in a dinghy when he realised it was his tender! His intervention caused the offenders to flee leaving behind some property which they had stolen from a number of other boats, the police investigation continues to try to identify the thieves, who were seen in a small silver car, possibly a hatchback. It is almost always the local community who end these spates of crimes by keeping us informed of any suspicions and help build a picture to combat criminals. Dinghies continue to be popular with thieves and I have to say that not everyone is heeding our advice to make them identifiable. Please record serial numbers and do what you can to make the dinghy recognisable and linked to you, we suggest a post code or a phone number. We are missing a Seago tender called 'Snow Goose' from Hamble and a 3.4m Waveline dinghy from the Medina.

June 2014

We can always tell what the weather was like through the course of the months when I review incidents reported to police, June is no exception. Nice and sunny means youths tombstoning, PWC nuisances and complaints about fishermen. We work hard to team up with the people who can best impact on these things, particularly through education to promote better safety and hopefully



prevent an accident. We are fortunate to live in a beautiful area and it is always great to see a diversity of people enjoying the water, coastline and beaches safely.

Police in Fareham have questioned two youths about a break in to a boat and they are currently on police bail. A boat owner on the River Itchen found that someone had broken into his boats and stolen alcohol and caused damage. They used a tender taken from up river to gain access. On the Hamble at Bursledon a 4.5m Valiant rib with a 60hp outboard on it were taken. Information came in via Project Kraken (it really works!) and the boat and engine have been recovered. The local policing team are conducting what we hope to be a fruitful investigation which we can share with you in the next newsletter.

At Shamrock Quay a White Renault Trafic van was used to steal a Blue Yamaha VXR Personal watercraft. We put out a Project Kraken Bulletin at the time, have a look on the web site for full details. On



Hayling Island a small boat called TT Lillette was stolen from a marina and later seen beached in Chichester Harbour having the Honda 5hp outboard taken from her. The boat has since also been taken. She is a quite unusual Mariner 380 open GRP boat, blue and white with a black rope around the gunnels.

We continue to lose outboards, here are a selection, all of which we have serial numbers for:- a Yamaha 4hp, a Tohatsu 6hp and an 8hp, a Mercury 6hp and a Mercury ELTT 100hp. The Mercury outboards were taken from the Romsey area. We note that there have been a number of outboards stolen from inland water sites in our surrounding counties. If you have contact with anywhere that stores boats and outboards please introduce them to Project Kraken and advise them to record serial numbers and check their security.



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Successes

Having provided a breakdown of the crime across the two counties, we would like to share some of the successes that we and our colleagues have had in combating it - you'll note a lot of the following stories start with a call from one of you along the lines of "It's probably nothing but..."! On 5th April 2014, two males were seen acting suspiciously in a small inflatable dinghy around the Millennium Bridge in Gosport and a vigilant member of the public went to check their boat once they had chained it to a pontoon and found binoculars and bolt cutters in the hull of the boat. They called us and provided an excellent description of the males and their direction of travel and as a result, we have arrested suspects who are currently on police bail.

On 3rd May a security guard at Calshot Activity Centre found Carl Birks breaking into two boats and called police. Upon our arrival the suspect decided to make a swim for freedom but his efforts were short lived and ended in a bit of a damp squib (sorry) when our colleagues eventually had to rescue him with a nearby life ring! Items were confirmed to stolen and he was charged. The 18th May saw two points scored by the good guys—the first incident occurred in the early hours at Gosport Cruising Club where a watchful member of the public noticed a drunken male enter the boatyard, drop a dinghy in the water and attempt to paddle away in it. He returned a short time later and explained to our rather bewildered informant that it would be a lot easier to take the boat if he had some oars - the informant called police and local officers chased the male over several gardens before detaining him. The dinghy owner confirmed that the male had caused £250 worth of damage to the hull and as part of our community resolution scheme, the offender agreed to recompense the aggrieved for the damage to avoid a criminal record.

The second incident was a bit more exciting and received some press coverage in the Island County Press.

Having driven his family over to Sandown Bay, anchored off the beach and popped into a bar overlooking the sea to enjoy a quiet drink, a horrified member of the public watched as a male swam out to his boat, climbed aboard and stole it in broad daylight. The boat owner immediately called the coastguard who passed the information to our duty boat and we started towards the area. En route we were able to notify all the nearby harbour staff at Bembridge, Langstone, Portsmouth and Ryde who all began an active look out and as we approached we were flagged down by two different members of the public giving us further details about where the boat had gone - Project Kraken in action!

We located the vessel a short time later abandoned in Whitecliff Bay and having saved it from the rocks we towed it back to the grateful owner. Meanwhile, the offender Daniel Hodgkinson, was detained by our colleagues on the land as he tried to flee the scene of the abandoned vessel on foot - he has been charged to court with the theft.



Finally, during a recent search our unit carried out beneath the Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station, we located a RIB which had recently been stolen from Gunwharf Quay Marina. As you can see from the photo, not only did we get rather muddy during the recovery, we also managed to puncture the front sponson on Lydia (our affectionately named tender) - but at least the boat was located for the owner!



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Hampshire's Project Kraken Neighbourhood Teams join in to enhance coastal vigilance

In the last year, the Marine Unit have done a lot of work with all the coastal neighbourhood teams across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to enhance the way that Project Kraken is delivered in our communities.



This came about as a result of the fantastic success that PC Mark Arnold has had along the River Hamble in the last couple of years after pioneering the first local neighbourhood Kraken initiative. In that time, Mark has created a group of stakeholders along the river who

have all signed up to a confidential information sharing agreement allowing us to give them more detailed intelligence and photos of criminals we believe are active in committing marine crime. As a result, Mark has made arrests and secured convictions against several marine thieves in the Hamble area as detailed in our previous editions. Having seen the positive effect Mark's work has had in his area, we have delivered a presentation to all our coastal neighbourhood teams and explained why Project Kraken is so important in keeping our borders safe and secure. We have now identified an officer in every beat, including PCSO Kelly Cole in the Lymington area (pictured right) who have assumed responsibility for co-ordinating Project Kraken in their neighbourhood. In the last 4 months, this advance in our approach to gathering information by working with our marine communities from a local perspective has seen a sharp rise in the amount of information we receive from you—please contact us for details of your local Kraken officer.



Project Kraken - Officially going National with the NCA

In addition to the grass roots development we have made with our neighbourhood teams, Project Kraken is soon to



be relaunched and refreshed at a National level by the National Crime Agency. Still in their infancy, the NCA have been set up as a central investigative body made up of officers from forces around the country, a bit like an English version of the FBI.

As part of their responsibilities, the NCA are tasked with taking the lead on investigations into serious organised crime groups and as most of these investigations lead to enquiries overseas, border controls and security are usually of interest to them. As a result, the government have tasked the NCA with refreshing Project Kraken and Project Pegasus (the Aviation version of Kraken) and trying to bring greater central co-ordination to these initiatives.

This process is well under way and our unit has been represented on the working group to advise them on the best way to develop Kraken at local and national levels.

The official relaunch of Project Kraken will be taking place at Cowes week where the Police, Border Force and NCA will be in attendance to try and speak to as many mariners and people with an interest in the coast as possible. There will be a stand set up in or near Cowes Yacht Haven from Sat 2nd-Tues 5th August manned by representatives from the agencies above where you will notice some big changes to the current artwork but the message is unchanged:- If you see something unusual or suspicious at sea or around the coast, call 101 or Crimestoppers and report it. In Hampshire, you have the added advantage of being able to speak with us on the duty mobile—07774 684317!

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Beaulieu Boat Jumble

We had another successful year at the Beaulieu boat jumble this year and it is always great to meet so many boat enthusiasts and chat to you about Project Kraken and what you can look for whilst on the water this summer.



Of the 10 0-5hp, 8 6-10hp and 6 11-25hp outboard engines and over 20 tenders and inflatables checked, nothing came back stolen.

Perhaps the best part of the day for us was finding several of you actively using www.stolenboats.org.uk on your smart phones to check stuff before buying it. We believe that this, along with far better security at the boat jumble gates, is the reason thieves seem to be using jumbles less and less as a stolen goods outlet. This pattern was replicated at Titchfield boat jumble last week where again, of the 9 outboards and 6 tenders checked, we found nothing stolen or suspicious.

In fact this year, the only time we have had the chance to use any police powers at a boat jumble was to detain a drink driver after we left the Beaulieu show!!

D-Day Commemorations in Southsea

This year marked 70 years since the DDAY landing operation was launched during World War 2 which was undoubtedly one of our country's proudest days. Hampshire played a pivotal role in this operation and our shores saw many service personnel leave for the last time to defend our freedom from Nazi oppression.



It was therefore an honour for our Unit to be asked to help police the celebrations on Southsea seafront where the Navy gathered many of their fleet and demonstrated a beach landing before the Red Arrows flew over to complete the celebrations – a fitting tribute to those who gave everything for us.



Thank you to everyone who attended in their boats and made our lives easy by adhering to the temporary restrictions in place.

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Changing of the Guard

May 2014 saw a significant change to our unit as our Sergeant Tony Birr finally hung up his life jacket and uniform and retired from Hampshire Police after serving his time. Having started out in the Royal Navy, Tony joined Leicestershire Police before transferring to Hampshire in the 90's. He fulfilled various roles in CID and Special Branch before securing the position of Marine Unit Sergeant for the final three years of his service. As you will know from our previous newsletters, Tony oversaw a lot of change in that time and we wish him well with his future ventures.

Sergeant Damon Kennard has now assumed the daunting task of whipping us into shape - we are a unique Unit in policing circles but Damon has already got to grips with the daily running of things and it is clear we are in very safe hands as we enter the next era.



In addition to the change at the top, our unit is about to lose two of the most experienced officers we have in PC Kerry Murray and PC Nick McKinnon.



Kerry is well known in every Harbour, Marina and Sailing club around Hampshire and the Isle of Wight having served on our unit for nearly 10 years. She modestly puts this down to the fact that until the arrival of Minka a few months ago, she has been the first and only female on the Marine unit and is therefore easy to distinguish! Anyone who has worked with Kerry knows differently and the reality is her hard work, attention to detail and commitment to providing an excellent service to the public has meant Kerry has become our figurehead with many of you—she will be a huge loss to us and we are very grateful that she has kindly stayed a year over her retirement date to stick around and keep us running smoothly.

Similarly, Nick has been on the Unit for 10 years and has a wealth of marine and specialist knowledge. With a background in firearms, Nick has been central in organising the joint work and training that we do with our specialist teams and despite his imminent departure, he is still busy arranging the next round of training and development with our colleagues which will take place after he leaves—motivated to the last!

With all the changes and the loss of experienced officers, we really are entering a new era for our unit. We are committed to ensuring the continued success of Project Kraken by maintaining the relationships that Kerry, Nick and others have developed with you all as these close partnerships are central to everything we are striving to achieve. We aim to ensure that you know and trust us as well as you did them!



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Diary Dates



- Cowes Flare Amnesty (Harbour Commission Car Park) - Friday 1st August 1100-1600
- Cowes Week - Sat 2nd—Sat 9th August
- Southampton Boat Show - 12th-21st Sept

So....Who is Sgt Kennard?

How many years in Hampshire Police? 22 yrs.

What have you done?

1992 - 1996. Commenced service at Totton.

1996 - 1998. Appointed as Field Intelligence Officer at Hythe.

1998 - 2000. Divisional Detective Constable, Southampton Central Police Station.

2000 - 2002. Divisional Detective Sergeant, Shirley Police Station.

2002 - 2003. Divisional Intelligence Manager, 5 OCU.

2003 - 2005. Detective Sergeant, Intelligence Development Unit, 5 OCU.

2005 - 2007. Detective Sergeant, Major Crime Department.

2008 - 2009 Intel Manager, Major Crime Department.

01/09/09 - 30/11/2012. District CID @ Lyndhurst.

01/12/12 - 05/06/12. Area CID @ SC.

06/06/12 - 11/05/14. Soton West DCID @ Shirley.

12/05/14 - Hampshire Marine Unit.

What are you looking forward to in the Marine Unit?

A better work life balance but more importantly new challenges associated with a stretch of water/coastline I feel passionate about.

Sunny, you're on leave - how do you spend the day? Sailing with friends and family or the solitude of a solo kayak paddle.

Likes? Anything associated with the sea.

Dislikes? Nine O'Clock jury's/ Red tape/Politics.

Favourite Meal? Curry.

Sail or Power? Depends on what is most important, the destination or the journey? Sail would be my preference unless it was blowing old boots on the nose!

You can have any boat? Pogo or Sun Fast 3200 or similar. Anything quick, tweakable and well sorted for short handed/solo sailing/racing.

Any car? Triumph TR6 and a garage to put it in.

Britain's got Talent have had a sudden drop out and we volunteer you - what's your speciality? Singing in the shower.

Favourite role to date?

Night cover Detective Sergeant.



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