



## Patrol Report

The 2008 season was anything but dull for the Patrol Team. The team of nine were called out to over 250 incidents as they continued to provide an invaluable service for yachtsmen in Chichester Harbour. Patrol Officer, *Roger Young* looks back on some of the key incidents

### A Suspicious Incident

On a clear day in August, the Patrol Officers were surprised to see a 27' yacht aground near Itchenor. The team became suspicious as they spied three persons onboard climb into a tender and row ashore leaving the vessel unsecured and without laying an anchor.

An Officer was despatched to their landing point but was unable to locate the men. Two more Officers went by Land Rover to a neighbouring farm where the three men were located and questioned about the vessel. Moments later the men split up and ran in different directions.

Three more of the Patrol Team then joined in the search. Following a chase across farmland, along footpaths and through private res-

idences the three men were apprehended and detained until the Police arrived.

The yacht, which had been removed from a mooring at Dell Quay, was recovered by the Patrol Team and secured until the Police forensic unit were able to inspect it. At the time of writing, this incident is still being investigated.

### Crime in the Harbour

Overall, reported incidents of theft in and around the harbour were markedly up. 40 were reported in 2008, as compared to 24 in 2007. Please report all incidents to the Police and the Harbour Office and remember the six-point plan:

**Lock It,  
Mark It,  
Alarm It,  
Remove It,  
Report It  
Keep Alert**



## Collisions with Moored Vessels

The channels of Chichester Harbour are narrow and during the summer months some areas are crowded with moored vessels. This calls for extra caution on behalf of those navigating through these areas. A good look out must be kept at all times to protect your own vessels and that of others.

Each year a number of craft collide with moored boats but worryingly this year the number of reported incidents rose by a staggering 60%. However, the number of persons coming forward to report having collided with a moored vessel fell. This is very disappointing and a most unwelcome trend.

Take care through moored boats



If you are involved in or witness a collision between two craft in the harbour you must contact us as soon as possible, either

a call to the office or by calling *Chichester Harbour Patrol* on VHF Channel 14. Incident forms can also be completed online at [www.conservancy.co.uk/water/patrol.asp](http://www.conservancy.co.uk/water/patrol.asp)

## Statistics

Total recorded Incidents: 254

Total number of people assisted on the water: 353

Collisions/near misses: 7

Collisions with moored boats: 26

Vessels broken free from moorings: 19

Complaints against a third party: 17

Vessels requiring a tow: 50

Vessels aground: 29

Miscellaneous calls: 106, including: 28 dinghy rescues, 13 boats sunk or sinking and 10 medical emergencies

## Byelaw Infringements

The harbour speed limit of 8-knots is there for the safety of all harbour users. During 2008, three prosecutions were brought for excess speed. All three people were given fines in excess of £500 by Magistrates.

In one incident the Patrol Officers spotted a motor boat travelling at high speed late one evening. The boat was tracked for one nautical mile at a speed in excess of 30 knots.

In a press release, the Harbour Master said, 'This vessel had faulty navigation lights, and travelling at these speeds in failing light is clearly dangerous. The speed limit of 8 knots is there for everyone's safety and will be rigorously enforced by the Conservancy.'

Please may we thank all those who have alerted us to persons in breach of the byelaws and have acted as our eyes and ears.

Enjoy Chichester Harbour during the 2009 season and do get in contact if you or anyone else needs assistance whilst afloat. ☸

## Federation Week

The southern end of the harbour is always busy for the three hour period around high water during Federation Week when around 400 dinghies may be racing.

If you prefer peace and quiet, then the upper reaches of the harbour are the place to be during the busy period.

10 - 14 August 2009

