



Patrol Report

Patrol Officer, Roger Young, looks back at a busy year with varied incidents from rescuing a cyclist from the mud to prosecuting for illegal aqua planing

Crime

I am very pleased to report a significant reduction in crime levels within the harbour over the last twelve months. However the majority of the remaining crime is being perpetrated from shore side, with sailing clubs and boat storage areas the main target. Tenders and small outboard engines being the two most stolen items.

The Patrol team continues to work closely with the two Police forces that cover the harbour, including patrols with Police Officers.

At the time of writing two of the Patrol team have been requested to appear for the prosecution against a male on the charges of theft and handling stolen outboard engines.

In another recent operation involving Kent and Sussex Police two tenders were recovered in the Kent area after police were able to trace the vessels back to the harbour from the

harbour dues plaques. The police are often left with recovered marine items that they believe are stolen but are unable to trace the owners. To aid the police please record the serial numbers for all your equipment and postcode your items. Finally please report all thefts to the Police and the Harbour Office.

Free Postcoding 9 - 10 April
Harbour Office, Itchenor
Call 01243 512301 for details

Incidents

The Patrol team dealt with over 240 incidents ranging from vessels aground, engine failures and medical emergencies to the recovery of injured sea birds.

Twice this season the team worked alongside the Coastguard units to rescue persons trapped in the mud at Snowhill Creek. In the

KEEPING CHICHESTER HARBOUR

The harbour is home to some 10,000 sailing and power-driven vessels. At busy times and in certain parts of the harbour it is congested and the scope for collisions and 'near misses' is greatly increased. In order to ensure a happy and safe day on the water when it is congested, it is important to ensure you know the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collision at Sea (the COLREGS). Be alert, keep a good look out so as to take early avoiding action and show consideration and courtesy to other harbour users.

Download our Harmony leaflets from the On the Water section of the website or collect a free copy from the Harbour Office.



Twice we worked alongside the Coastguard units to rescue people from the mud



first incident we were able to get to the man with a patrol boat and recover him to safety.

On the second occasion the casualty, who was waist deep in the mud, was winched on board the Coastguard rescue helicopter and then landed with the mud rescue team on the shore. The gentleman's bag and bicycle were retrieved by the Coastguard mud rescue unit. The mudland that surrounds much of the harbour can be extremely hazardous and if at all possible should be avoided and certainly not cycled across!

Bait Digging

Fishermen have rights dating back to the Magna Carter to collect bait for their own use. You should only gather what you personally need and collect bait sustainably. All holes must be back filled both for safety and to help maintain the intertidal habitat.

Commercial bait diggers are required to gain the land owner's permission before starting work and check whether they need consent from agencies such as Natural England. Generally speaking anyone who damages or destroys a Site of Special Scientific Interest may be fined up to £20,000.

The Chichester Harbour Byelaws state that *No person shall in any part of the harbour dig for lugworm, ragworm, or any form of fishing bait within 50' (15.24m) of any mooring, or within 20' (6.09m) of any pile, beacon, mark hard, causeway, jetty, quay, wharf or similar structure.*

Failure to adhere to the byelaw may end in

prosecution. Should you require any additional information regarding bait digging in the harbour please contact the Harbour Office.

Prosecutions

Prosecutions and cautions this year totalled six. Five were for travelling at speeds in excess of eight knots within the harbour and one for aqua planing. A complete list of the Byelaws can be found on the Conservancy's website or copies can be obtained from the Harbour Office.

Thank You

As always, very many thanks to all who have taken the trouble to report incidents and byelaw breaches to us. Without your reports our task would certainly become more difficult and in turn less successful.

Statistics

Total recorded incidents: 247

Total number of persons assisted on the water:

Collisions / near misses: 13

Collisions with moored boats: 19

Vessels broken free from moorings: 20

Complaints against a third party: 15

Vessels requiring a tow: 50

Vessels aground: 21

Miscellaneous calls: 109, including, 12 dinghy rescues, 10 vessels sinking or sunk, 21 medical emergencies.

Call VHF Channel 14 or 01243 512301