

## Welcome

This newsletter, provided by the Marine Unit, is intended to inform the marine communities of Kent and Essex of the latest information on property that has been stolen and provide practical advice and information around maritime issues.

The Marine Unit works with partners including the Port of London Authority, Medway Port Authority, Maritime Coastguard Agency and Local Councils to patrol Kent and Essex's waterways and keep the two county's marine community safe.

If you have any information that you would like us to include in future editions of this newsletter, please contact the Marine Unit on **01795 584166** or email **8182@kent.pnn.police.uk**

## Olympic news

The Olympics are now less than a year away. Mariners intending to travel into London on their vessel should be aware of the Port of London Authority's intention to restrict vessel movements during the Olympic period. Full details are available on the [PLA website](#).

At this time there is no reason to believe that the River Medway will see a large influx of vessels when the PLA implements its plans. There is no suggestion either that the area will see large numbers of foreign vessels entering the Thames/Medway. This may change nearer the games, but we will let you know of any developments. Essex and Kent marine patrols will continue in the River Medway and River Thames to maintain security during the games and assist river authorities to preserve safe navigation.

You can expect to see us where the Olympic Torch travels by water and we will be working 24/7 throughout the Olympic and Paralympic Games

# Marine Unit



Protecting the  
marine community

# International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI)

DC Simon Lofting of Essex Police is the Chair of the IAMI. This is an international organisation which:

provides marine theft investigative training

- develops and disseminates educational materials to conduct marine investigations
- provides a forum for discussing marine investigations and related investigative activities
- promotes the application, prevention and suppression of crime, including marine crime, vessel accident prevention/investigation, environmental protection, marine drug smuggling, cargo crime and boating safety issues.
- unites for the mutual benefit of those eligible for membership.
- collects and disseminates information of interest to all members.
- eliminates all factors that interfere with the administration of justice.
- operates as a non-profit organisation.
- appropriates no funding for political lobbying.

The IAMI has recently produced an excellent newsletter which is available for the general public to view. Please see details on the next page.

# IAMI newsletter



The [IAM newsletter](#) is a digital online edition which allows you to flip through the pages, zoom in to read more details or you can simply download the newsletter as a PDF file by selecting the small icon in the end menu bar.

Simon Lofting is the IAMI European Chairman and can be reached:

- online - [www.iamieurope.org](http://www.iamieurope.org) or
- by email - [iamimarineeu@aol.com](mailto:iamimarineeu@aol.com)

# Marine crime

The theft of outboard engines across the UK and Europe continues.

In 2010, €70million worth of outboard engines alone were stolen. In the first quarter of 2011, the UK had suffered a loss of £2.5million in outboard engines.

On many occasions the owners of these items had not recorded their serial numbers, marked or secured their property in any way.

This crime is both serious and organised. If you see anyone walking around your area, asking questions or taking photos, please pass on their description to your local police officer.

If they use a vehicle, please try to get a make and model, and the registration number as this really helps us detect and disrupt these crimes.

It is essential that owners take all appropriate measures to make their property harder to steal and easier to identify if found by police in this country or abroad.

Visit [www.kent.police.uk/marine](http://www.kent.police.uk/marine) for more advice on protecting your property.

# Kent Marine Special Constables

Hopefully by now you will have received a visit from our new section of Marine Special Constables. These officers, who are all volunteers, provide a bespoke Marine presence/resource for the county.

They have already made an impact in the policing of jet skis being ridden in an anti-social way and made arrests for other offences encountered during the day.

This team is an integral part of our neighbourhood policing strategy, providing a personal contact with our marine community.

To give you a flavour of the work they do, read about a day in the life of Special Constable Mark Newman.



"I've only been with the marine unit for a short time so far but I and my colleagues are really getting around the county, supporting the marine community. One of our main objectives is the neighbourhood policing of the waterside environment. I am there to not only deal with crimes that have taken place and give crime prevention advice but I will also be dealing with any general issues that arise that require police attendance. Here is a day in my life in the marine unit.

"I normally work a shift on a weekend and arrive at our base in Sheerness Docks for 8am. We have a brand new police station there that is wonderfully spacious although its straightforward design leads to it being nicknamed the Lego building. After kitting up I'll go through any tasking and briefings with my colleagues and then it's off out around Kent in our fully-liveried Citroen Zara. Our vehicle certainly gets noticed and has become a regular sight around the coastline.

"Our first call is to help search for a missing person who is said to be vulnerable so we carry out house to house investigations at the person's last known location. We then spend the next few hours searching different points along the nearby coastline as the air support unit searches overhead.

"A call comes in over the radio that there has been a road traffic collision and as we are nearby I confirm that we will attend. Another unit is already there when we arrive but we can help out with traffic control. It's quite a serious collision involving a motorcyclist so I am busy advising people to try a different route to avoid a long wait.

Continued over page

# Kent Marine Special Constables

"After this it's time to fit in some refreshment and then it's off to speak to a witness about some anti-social behaviour and criminal damage at a marina. On the way we stop a vehicle and give advice to the driver about wearing seatbelts.

"Finally at the marina we speak to the informant over a welcome mug of tea before I'm off again to Gillingham to respond to a call about nuisance jet skis.

"Next it's Maidstone after reports of young people throwing stones at passing boats but on arrival all is clear. I decide while there to call on some local boat owners to reassure them that Kent Police is there to help them, even on the water.

"The last journey of the day is to the seaside town of Walmer where there have again been reports of troublesome young people on the beach. They are still there when we arrive and I make sure they leave. They are a little aggressive and abusive but it's all in a day's work.

"I end the day at Sheerness filling in some reports then it's off home."