

July 2017

## **NEWSLETTER 02/17**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen

Dorset Border Force Maritime Team has had quite a busy time over the last few months:

During March, Dorset Border Force Maritime Team members gave a talk at Axmouth Sailing Club, which was well received. Given sufficient notice, Dorset Border Force Maritime Team members will do their utmost to honour any similar invitations, should you wish us to attend your function.

Dorset Border Force Maritime Team members also attended the Yarmouth Harbour training day in the Isle of Wight during March. Officers briefed new staff on the role of Border Force in general and the Maritime Team in particular.

On 13 May, Border Force officers attended the Christchurch Sailing Club open day which was a fantastic family event. Included in the events was a RNLI man overboard exercise, as well as a demonstration of mast climbing. Dorset Border Force Maritime Team took along one of our General Maritime vehicles with various bits of kit etc. One of our four legged members in particular went down a storm with the children. He was none other than canine Border Force officer Ted, a springer spaniel. He was ably assisted by his handler, Frankie. Ted demonstrated his ability to sniff out concealed substances which everyone enjoyed watching.

Earlier this month, Ted showed off his skills to Year 5 pupils at Baden Powell School in Poole.

During mid-May Dorset Border Force Maritime Team members attended the Poole Maritime Festival, where we had a 'stand' near one of our Coastal Patrol Vessels (CPV), Nimrod and the Royal Navy vessels HMS Hurworth and Puncher. It was nice to speak to the general public and answer questions about what we do.

At around 11pm on 24<sup>th</sup> June there was a mass migrant arrival at Poole ferry port. Eighteen illegal migrants, including seven children and one female arrived in a hard sided freight vehicle off the RO-RO ferry. A multi agency agreed plan was put into play to deal with this very situation. Immediate response was by South West Ambulance Trust, Dorset Police and Dorset Border Force officers. They were ably supported by Poole Harbour Commissioners Security staff, Brittany Ferries staff and Poole General Hospital A+E staff. All the migrants were suffering from breathing difficulties, and after being suitably identified, were transported to Poole Hospital A+E for checks. They were all released within two hours. On their return to Poole port, the children were held by Border Force officers while Poole Social Services found accommodation for them. The adults were processed by Dorset Border Force officers and transported to the local Immigration Removal Centre for their safety and welfare.

Overall, there has been a steady increase in illegal immigrants being detected at Poole ferryport. This is likely to hasten attempts by the migrants to reach the UK in rhibs, boats and yachts used by organised crime gangs. Please be assured that we consider many of you as our 'eyes and ears' when it comes to reporting suspicious activity at sea. Dorset Border Force Maritime Team ask that you be vigilant, and report anything suspicious to either Dorset Border Force or the

Police. If you are out of phone or internet range, contact either organisation via the Maritime Coastguard Agency on your radio.

Just a reminder to Harbourmasters and Marina Managers; please to let us know of any foreign visiting yachts in their ports.

**To end, a reminder about boat security.....**

# WARNING!

8 boats have been broken into in June within the harbour.

Don't make your boat the ninth.

**Mark it, Lock it, Alarm it, Do it NOW,**

**Report it**

even if the item is not of great value



**THIEVES WANT  
TO STEAL  
YOUR  
BOAT/PROPERTY**

Have a great season, kind regards

**Poole Maritime Team**