

# UK Missing Persons Unit Newsletter

## Staffing Updates

The UKMPU are looking to recruit new members to join our wonderful team! Keep an eye out for our job advert on the <http://www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk> to apply. You can also get in touch with us if you have any questions or just seeking information regarding the MPU at [ukmpu@nca.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ukmpu@nca.x.gsi.gov.uk)

## Christmas Carol Service

On Monday 10th December, the UK Missing Persons Unit attended their eighth annual Christmas carol service hosted by the Missing People charity, to show their support to those who have been affected by missing and to remember those who have disappeared before and during the festive period. Held in the majestic St Martin-in-the-Fields Church in Trafalgar Square, the event was led by Rev. Katherine, who welcomed all those who attended the evenings service.

Attendees included friends and family members of missing people, workers and supporters of the Missing People Charity, team members from the UK MPU, special guests including Sir Trevor McDonald and Monica Dolan, and members of the public, each of whose presence symbolised hope and support for those affected by a missing episode.

As the evening progressed, emotive performances from the Mail Voice Choir, St Martin's Voices and the Missing People Choir allowed guests to reflect on their personal experiences of missing, whilst providing a sense of hope and positivity throughout the church. Amongst these performances were poem and bible readings from family members of missing people, charity workers and special celebrity guests, which reminded all those present of the heartache created when a loved one is missing, whether temporarily or permanently. NCA's DG Lynne Owens also attended the service, delivering a bible reading named 'Hope for all the World', reminding all to be hopeful that one day their loved ones will return.

The service concluded with the lighting of candles held by guests throughout the church, to symbolise hope and unity for all during times of absence and hardship. The Reverend then finalised the service with a blessing for all over the festive period. The Crypt then hosted a drinks and mince pie reception for guests of the service, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



## Operation Freshwater Updates

Following several months of investigation, the UKMPU has successfully helped to identify the female skull and arm bones that were washed up on Freshwater Bay, Isle of White, in 2017. As suspected, the woman in question had been buried at sea several months prior to the remains being discovered. Familial DNA collected by the UKMPU confirmed this match, and her next of kin were appropriately informed. With this half of Operation Freshwater finalised, work to identify the male torso, that also washed up on Freshwater Bay in 2017, is now underway in the unit.

Email: [ukmpu@nca.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ukmpu@nca.x.gsi.gov.uk)

Tel: 0800 234 6034

Follow the Unit on Twitter: @UKMissingPerson

Like the 'UK Missing Persons Unit' page on Facebook

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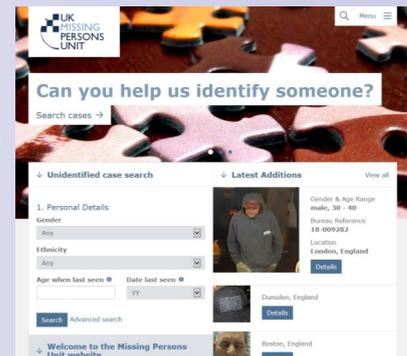
## MPU Social Media

Here at the UKMPU we have several media channels through which we provide information and updates we believe to be of interest to our partners and those affected by missing. We encourage you to visit the following:

UK MPU website - primarily intended to publicise cases of those found unidentified, our website also includes factsheets for those missing friends and family, as well as links to relevant organisations and publications. Visit our website at <https://missingpersons.police.uk>. We would like to find out what you think of our website, so please spend 5 minutes to complete our website survey, available at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Y273FRR> or you can link through to the survey from the website.

Social media - our Twitter page is @UKMissingPerson and we also have a UK Missing Persons Unit Facebook page. Click on the logo's below to access them.

POLKA - for our police and government partners, we have a "Missing Persons Unit" community on POLKA. Anyone on the PNN or GSI network can join and/or view the content of the community. See <https://www.college.police.uk/What-we-do/Research/polka/Pages/POLKA.aspx> for more information.



## Upcoming Events

- **12<sup>th</sup> February** — Joe Apps visits Police Scotland to discuss their new database and self administration report forms.
- **14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> February** — Interviewing students for the MPU placement next year.
- **14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> February** — International Consortium Dementia and Wandering meeting.



## Positive News Story

### A complex international case

In December 2018, the MPU was made aware of a case involving a 19 year old woman who had been reported missing in Ireland. Evidence had been located to indicate she had been groomed on line, and persuaded to travel to the UK with an older male. This woman was extremely vulnerable, suffering from Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, and information supplied indicated she required significant support to live independently. Despite requests from the Garda, no UK force would take responsibility for the investigation, and the MPU stepped in to see how we could assist, given the concerns that she was being exploited by this older male.

Paul from the team liaised with both police and family, in the UK and Ireland, in order to fully understand the situation, and identified a number of positive lines of investigation to try and locate her. He liaised with social services, as well as health, and eventually managed to locate a number of addresses. Paul contacted the local police and arranged visits to these addresses. Thankfully the missing woman was located in January and has been reunited with her mother.

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