

UK Missing Persons Unit Newsletter

Over the past few months...

National Investigative Capabilities conference:

November marked the first time for all units involved in investigations to be brought together. Presentations were given by representatives from a variety of teams over two days, including Paul Green from the UKMPU, in order to share what each team's role is, as well as examples of positive outcomes. The conference was informative, packed with interesting cases, and provided a great opportunity for forging connections across other teams within the agency.

Global Missing Children Network:

In December the UKMPU were invited to and attended the 12th annual Global Missing Children's Network (GMCN) in Lisbon—part of the International Centre For Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC) which is a non-governmental, non-profit global organisation combatting child exploitation and abduction.

The network provides capabilities beneficial to the NCA through the opportunity to form relationships with other missing teams across the world, and through use of the GMCN search engine (a new platform which has the ability to create a dedicated missing child poster, activate an online geo-targeted missing child alert (FIA) and conduct a facial recognition search with a missing child photo). This allows the unit to assist and offer support to UK policing in the most problematic cases - ultimately safeguarding and saving lives. The UKMPU representative Neil Dodds was able to share experiences, investigative best practices, tools, research and trends related to missing and abducted children, that will be cascaded to a wide audience both internally and externally.

Missing People Carol Service summary:

In early December the Missing People charity held their 9th annual Carol service at St-Martin-in-the-Field Church at Trafalgar Square, which was co-organised with help from Joe Apps and one of the unit's placement students, Annabel Bean. The service was hosted by Sir Trevor McDonald (OBE) and led by Revd Sally Hitchiner, and the NCA's Director General Lynne Owens was also present to give one of the bible readings. A variety of choirs, festive carols, and a focus on the candle-lighting aspect of the service made for an atmospheric, and at times emotional evening, signifying hope for the families of missing unable to spend Christmas time with their loved ones.



UKMPU member features on New Years Honours list



Naomi Eales, a former member of the UKMPU, has recently been recognised in the 'New Year's Honours' list – acknowledging her commitment to helping others. This has been in recognition of the operational tool – iFIND, which was created to identify patterns of behaviour amongst at risk populations. Naomi painstakingly collected and analysed data from police forces between 2010 and 2016, in order to code a total of 19 categories of vulnerabilities. These included autism, ADHD, dementia, depression, bipolar disorder, eating disorders, and grief to name a few.

The relentless personal commitment demonstrated by Naomi in creating iFIND, and an evaluation with the College of Policing, has led to its success as a tool used to inform the College's Police National Search Centre in their training, as well as being available for use by professional volunteer search groups. iFIND has furthermore been adapted for use

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RLSS 'Don't Drink and Drown' campaign

'Don't Drink and Drown' is a national campaign that was launched in 2014 in order to warn drinkers of the dangers of entering, or walking home near water. Research suggests this is a prominent risk, with more than a quarter of drowning victims having alcohol and/or drugs in their bloodstream.

The 5th annual campaign ran from the 2nd through until the 8th of December, focusing on deaths in water. This involved a short film, press releases, social media posts, and water safety training in order to inform the public of the dangers of water—especially in the colder months. Lisa Gibson represented the UKMPU to show our support when she visited the RLSS during their campaign.

Individuals who go missing on a night out, or are found deceased in water, are often the focus of investigations undertaken by the team. Raising awareness and encouraging prevention of drinking near water is therefore a common goal between the RLSS and the UKMPU, with continued support for the campaign being offered through publicity on the UKMPU website and social media channels.

Staffing Updates

As we welcome the new year, we also welcome two new Operations Officers who will be joining the North team within the UKMPU! They have both provided a brief bio below.

Ben Hooper

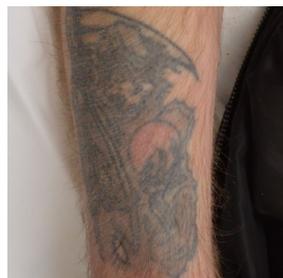
I am very pleased to have joined the UKMPU as an Operations Officer and relish this opportunity to develop my knowledge and skills while also providing assistance to the public and our police colleagues. I have an employment background of military service, police service, intelligence and Forensic Psychology (including academic/applied research). A huge thank you to the UKMPU for allowing me to join their amazing team!

Rosalind O'Brien

I completed a BSc (Hons) in Social Work at the University of Edinburgh. Following my degree I worked in the area of domestic abuse and then joined Gloucestershire Constabulary's Witness Care Unit, securing witness attendance at court and in trials, and have also been based in a child bereavement charity. I am hugely looking forward to learning from those around me and working with everyone in the team at the UKMPU.

Can you help identify this person?

We are seeking assistance to identify a missing man, believed to be aged around 30 years old, who was found deceased on 26 December 2018 in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. The picture on the right shows a tattoo from the missing person's right arm. For more details see the case on our [website](#).



Upcoming Events

- **28th– 29th Jan**—COMPACT Conference 2020 in Hull
- **3rd–7th Feb**—Student placement interviews for 2020/21 positions

As well as these events, over the coming months the current placement students Annabel and Ryan will be collecting data for their research projects, based on Autism and locations of deceased mispers respectively. If you are interested in finding out more information, please email the UKMPU.

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