



UK Missing Persons Bureau Newsletter

Missing People Carol Service

On Monday 12th December, the UK MPB and Missing People's Charity held their sixth annual Carol Service at St Martins in the Fields Church in Trafalgar Square.

The service was led by Rev. Katherine Hedderly who reminded us all to keep those who were missing this Christmas time in our thoughts and prayers. As the evening progressed there were performances from the Choral Scholars, the Royal Mail Choir and the Missing People's choir,

including a song written by James Hawkins and Ash Alexander, - 'I hope'. Poems and tributes from family members, of those who had gone missing, reminded all those present of the heartache families suffer when experiencing loss - whether permanent or temporary and to remain hopeful that they will one day return.

The service also included Bible readings from ambassadors of the Charity such as Amanda Redman, a leading television actress. As well as a reading from Director General Lynne Owens, - 'On Hope'. It was concluded with the lighting of candles to symbolise

hope and unity for families who are missing their loved ones. Following, this there was a mince pie reception in the Crypt, which was enjoyed by all.

Overall, the evening reminded us all of the true meaning of Christmas and to remember those who are not able to be present with us at this special time.



College of Policing Conference 2016: Vulnerability

On Wednesday 30th November the annual conference organised by the College of Policing was held at Sunningdale. The agenda for the conference included case studies, an exhibition and a panel discussion with the College CEO Alex Marshall.

At the start of the day, CEO Alex Marshall opened the conference with a talk

concerning the introduction of the Licence to Practise. This will aim to see the roll out of a new support system to ensure officers feel they are adequately trained for a role which will ensure they and the public are protected. This has come from the results of a staff survey which found that a significant number of officers feel that they are not

adequately trained for a specialised role. As a result, a greater open minded culture will be further developed whereby

a more positive attitude to learning is encouraged. See POLKA for more information.

The conference was also attended by Amber Rudd, Home Secretary, who spoke about additional funding being made available to police leaders for work regarding vulnerability.

Upcoming Events:

- 14th - 16th June 2017 - 3rd International Conference on Missing Children and Adults
- Regional meetings - Commencing January 2017





Child Rescue Alert Conference

The annual Child Rescue Alert conference was held at Microsoft HQ on 17th November. Thirty five police forces were represented along with key CRA delivery partners, Missing People and Groupcall.

Delegates discussed a three-tiered approach to CRA, involving a local, regional and national response which was

considered as a positive step forward.

Attendees reflected on some of the challenges with using Child Rescue Alert and also heard from a colleague in the Netherlands in relation to a similar system 'Amber Alert' which has been well-established for a number of years.

Moving forward, the Missing Children Team will be engaging with force regional leads and the development board to consult on the future model of CRA as well as implementing Child Rescue Alert awareness and training sessions.



Student Research

Every year the UK Missing Persons Bureau welcomes two university students to undertake a placement year as part of their degree course before graduating. As part of their placement, they undertake a piece of research that will benefit and add to the knowledge of missing people.

Paige is conducting a preliminary study which will explore cases of women who go missing on a night out. The aim is to gain an understanding of the risks posed

to women whilst missing. Inspired by research conducted by Geoff Newiss from Kingston University, who examined cases of men who go missing on a night out. The research will use data obtained from the Bureau's missing person database (Hermes) and will be completed by June 2017.

Zara is conducting research which will investigate the distance in which unidentified bodies and body parts are found from where the person was last seen. This will use identified cases that also have

missing person reports attached to the same individual. The aim is to identify predictive factors of where the unidentified remains were reported missing from. There will be many variables that will be compared, including gender, type of unidentified case, and if the body or body parts were found at sea.

Both students will bring their research in January 2017 and may contact forces for additional cases to be included in their research.

Relocation

The long term permanent site for the NCA's Missing Persons Bureau has been confirmed as Aztec West Business Park, Almondsbury, Bristol. This will become the permanent site from 2019. The temporary site from April 2017 has yet to be confirmed.

APP Publication

The College of Policing's Authorised Professional Practice (APP) on Missing Persons has been published and is available at www.app.college.police.uk.



On behalf of all of us here at UK MPB we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

missingpersons bureau@nca.x.gsi.gov.uk

08450005481 /+44(0)1344872572