



# missing people

Registered charity in England and Wales (1020419)  
and in Scotland (SC047419)



Spring 2021

# GET TOGETHER

Your newsletter from Missing People

## INTERNATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY 25 MAY

Our campaign, *The Story Can't End Here*, tells a story but removes the ending. That is the uncertainty families with a missing loved one live with each day, it can be a never-ending torture.

“The daily gut wrenching, broken-hearted grief of my son being missing is like no other grief I've ever experienced.”

Help us this International Missing Children's Day, Tuesday 25 May, to find an end to these stories and give the families the answers they so desperately need.

There are many reasons a child might choose or be forced to go missing, including sexual and criminal exploitation; bullying; mental health issues; and unhappiness in the home. Around 1 million people are impacted by a disappearance every year and for the thousands of families left behind, it's the not knowing that hurts the most.



Unable to go to school and separated from friends and family, this year has had a significant impact on children. Offering confidential support and advice, we're here to be a lifeline to vulnerable children, who don't know where to turn.

Help us raise awareness of missing children this week by downloading our social media pack and sharing missing posters for children. Visit our website to get involved:

[www.missingpeople.org.uk/IMCD](http://www.missingpeople.org.uk/IMCD)

# Mental health

In the UK 100,000 adults go missing every year with up to 80% having mental health problems. They are at high risk of harm and homelessness even while away for a short period, and the longer someone is missing, the worse their mental health problems can become.



To support people during this difficult year, we launched [our Winter Campaign](#) in November, which focused on mental health and the impact of the pandemic. Our Services Team created [two guides](#) to share their best tips to help people take care of their mental wellbeing and support their loved ones.

**Our mental health guides were downloaded over 4600 times, showing our support is more important than ever.**



The impact our mental health has on missing has been brought into even sharper focus during the pandemic. **In a recent survey conducted by Missing People 81%**

**(38 out of 47) of missing people or those thinking of going missing told us that their mental health was worse than normal during the January – March 2021 lockdown.**

“ As mental health and money problems are a key driver for people to go missing, looking ahead, the financial and societal impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic are likely to lead to a significant increase in the numbers of people going missing, and suicide, perhaps at a scale not seen before. This is likely to be most acutely felt in disadvantaged communities and those who are already socially excluded. ” - Jo Youle

Missing adults who are experiencing mental health issues face significant risks and often aren't supported when they return, facing long waiting lists before they can access help. Many people find it difficult to adjust when they return home and sadly up to a third will go missing again.

Mental health issues, including depression, self-harm and suicide are amongst the things most commonly discussed with our helpline. Our specialist support has never been more vital. We provide free and confidential support to people through every stage - whether they're away, thinking of leaving or have returned.

## MISSING PEOPLE HIGHLIGHTS

### Virtual Night of Light

Our annual Gala couldn't take place last year so instead this March, we held our first ever Virtual Night of Light. Thanks to everyone who took part by purchasing tickets, inviting friends, bidding on auction lots, and making donations. Your generosity helped us surpass our goal and raise an incredible £108,000!

If you want to relive the event or watch it for the first time, please [visit our YouTube page](#).

**missing people**  
Registered charity in England and Wales (15004915) and in Scotland (SC294742)

**Hg** 2021 Night of Light Corporate Supporter

2021  
*Night of Light*  
Virtual Fundraiser

Raised: **£108,140** Target: **£100,000**

# MISSING PEOPLE HIGHLIGHTS

## The Missing Podcast

*The Missing* is a ground-breaking new podcast hosted by Pandora Sykes and created with the support of Locate International and Missing People.



Each episode tells the story of an unsolved missing person's case and encourages the listener to join the conversation. It offers a unique platform for the families left behind to share their experience, heartache and the pain felt when a loved one disappears without a trace.

*The Missing* is available on all streaming platforms.

## 90-90-90 Virtual Event

A person goes missing every 90 seconds in the UK. Earlier this year, we asked people to take on a challenge involving the number 90 and commit to fundraising £90 – which would launch a publicity campaign to find a missing person and could help us reunite a family.



We were overwhelmed by the number of people who got involved. Several families even set themselves challenges to fundraise in memory of their loved ones. Like Vicky, who completed an incredible 90 miles in 90 days with her two children, all in memory of her brother, Justin Mathis, who has sadly been missing for 10 years.

## SPOTLIGHT ON DAVID WARNE: INDIVIDUAL GIVING OFFICER

### Tell us about your role.

My role is split across Community and Challenge Events - part of the Fundraising and Communications team. I develop opportunities and nurture relationships, whilst reviewing areas that can be improved.

Another key responsibility is to research, and progress new ideas where there are opportunities to engage more people and grow vital funding.

The variety of projects is most rewarding, in the same month I might be planning a virtual quiz and Carol Service for Christmas, writing content, recruiting challenge event runners, and creating a toolkit for community fundraisers.

### What have been some of your greatest challenges in lockdown?

Starting a new role virtually and during lockdown, meaning I'm



still yet to meet my colleagues. However, everyone has been so welcoming I haven't at all felt the effects.

The reduction in events and the impact

- on fundraising, this has meant approaching our programme differently to ensure people can still get involved, such as moving events online.

### What recent achievement(s) are you most proud of?

- Our Evening of Hope was a particular highlight, especially following the positive feedback from families - it was quite overwhelming.

- Also, I have enjoyed launching a new concept, called 90-90-90 Virtual Challenge, which went live in February and has a very grounded message.

- This bespoke event has been well received by new and existing

- supporters. In fact, we surpassed our target of £9k with a week to spare, which is incredible. With 28 participants and well over 400 donations. This amount could help us launch over a 100 publicity campaigns to find missing people and provide hope to families affected.

### How can people get involved?

- There are lots of ways people can continue to get involved with the charity, whether that's [running or walking at events](#) across the UK, we also have opportunities for people to [fundraise at home and in the office](#) such as our Pink and Black Days, Raise 116, and options for people to do baking, dancing and gaming. We also have our very important [Walk For](#) event, which is open to families directly affected by missing.

- Visit our website or contact [supporters@missingpeople.org](mailto:supporters@missingpeople.org) to find out more.

# International Siblings of the Missing

*Understanding our experience through other people's stories*



Give support and community to siblings who have missing loved ones

**LAST YEAR AT OUR FAMILY DAY, OUR ANNUAL EVENT FOR FAMILIES WITH A MISSING LOVED ONE, SARAH NETTLES AND CLAIRE MICHEL, WHO BOTH HAVE A MISSING SIBLING, HOSTED A SESSION FOR OTHERS LIKE THEM.**

This was the first time a support session had been held specifically for siblings of missing people. The group made a heartfelt connection with one another. They had great discussions about how they could further collaborate and work with Missing People to support other siblings.

Following that session, Sarah, Claire, Natasha Walker and Melissa Nettles formed the 'International Siblings of the Missing' group. Meeting regularly online to connect with other

siblings, share experiences and offer peer-to-peer support. They share a unique understanding of what it's like to suffer the ambiguous loss of a sibling, and the effect that can have on both the dynamics of their families and on their lives.

There are many issues siblings of missing people face. They are 'living in limbo' and whilst they want to grow and reach life milestones, this can come with guilt as they feel like they are moving on when their missing sibling and parents aren't.

There aren't many support organisations that understand the complexities that those with a missing loved one go through and even for those that do, much of the support is geared towards parents and primary care givers. Having a space where siblings can relate to one another and know they're not alone is so important. 'International Siblings of the Missing' is filling a much-needed gap in the issue of missing people by raising awareness, increasing support, and creating community.

..... [www.internationalsiblingsofthemissing.com](http://www.internationalsiblingsofthemissing.com) .....

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

2021

**Fancy a challenge? Why not join #TeamMissingPeople this year.**

We have guaranteed charity places available in the following events:

- **Brighton Marathon**, 12 September 2021
  - **Hackney Half Marathon**, 26 September 2021
  - **Virtual London Marathon**, 3 October 2021
  - **Royal Parks Half Marathon**, 10 October 2021
  - **Manchester Half Marathon**, 10 October 2021
  - **London Marathon**, 24 April 2022
- **Walk For**, for families all-year round - organise a walk either to build awareness or in memory of a love one.

**If you want to find out more about any event, [please visit our website](http://www.missingpeople.org.uk) or email [supporters@missingpeople.org.uk](mailto:supporters@missingpeople.org.uk)**

Registered address: 284 Upper Richmond Road West, London, SW14 7JE

[missingpeople.org.uk](http://missingpeople.org.uk) [supporters@missingpeople.org.uk](mailto:supporters@missingpeople.org.uk) [/missingpeople.uk](https://www.facebook.com/missingpeople) [@missingpeople](https://twitter.com/missingpeople)

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# MISSING



Age at disappearance: 6

Date missing: **26 Aug 2011**

Missing from: **Croydon, London**

Aamina we are here for you whenever you are ready; we can listen, talk you through what help you need, pass a message for you and help you to be safe.

## Aamina Khan

**Please call or text 116 000**

or email [116000@missingpeople.org.uk](mailto:116000@missingpeople.org.uk)

It's free and confidential

To join the search for Aamina visit  
[www.missingpeople.org.uk/help-us-find](http://www.missingpeople.org.uk/help-us-find)

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# MISSING



Age at disappearance: 16

Date missing: **26 Mar 2020**

Missing from: **Saltdean, East Sussex**

Owen we are here for you whenever you are ready; we can listen, talk you through what help you need, pass a message for you and help you to be safe.

## Owen Harding

**Please call or text 116 000**

or email [116000@missingpeople.org.uk](mailto:116000@missingpeople.org.uk)

It's free and confidential

To join the search for Owen visit  
[www.missingpeople.org.uk/help-us-find](http://www.missingpeople.org.uk/help-us-find)

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# MISSING



**IRVINE,  
Ayrshire**

## Sandy Davidson

Sandy, aged 3, went missing on 23 April 1976. The image on the right is an age progression to show how he may look aged 44.

Sandy we are here for you whenever you are ready; we can listen, talk you through what help you need, pass a message for you and help you to be safe.

**Please call or text 116 000**

or email [116000@missingpeople.org.uk](mailto:116000@missingpeople.org.uk)

It's free and confidential

To join the search for Sandy visit

[www.missingpeople.org.uk/help-us-find](http://www.missingpeople.org.uk/help-us-find)

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# MISSING



**London,  
Greater  
London**

## Carmel Fenech

Carmel, aged 16 on the left, went missing on 23 May 1998.

Carmel, aged 34 on the right.

Carmel we are here for you whenever you are ready; we can listen, talk you through what help you need, pass a message for you and help you to be safe.

**Please call or text 116 000**

or email [116000@missingpeople.org.uk](mailto:116000@missingpeople.org.uk)

It's free and confidential

To join the search for Carmel visit

[www.missingpeople.org.uk/help-us-find](http://www.missingpeople.org.uk/help-us-find)

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