

Missing People has partnered with national charity Lowland Rescue to launch an exciting new initiative called Search Dog Heroes.



## SEARCH DOG HEROES

Using volunteer handlers, 100 new search dogs will be trained and deployed across the UK over the next 2 years, many of whom will be ground-scenting dogs who can find a missing person quickly using articles of scent.

We'll also deliver a national awareness campaign to thousands of families whose loved ones are particularly at risk of going missing – those living with dementia, special educational needs or mental health problems. Over the coming months, educational tools will be available to advise

families and carers on how to prevent and prepare for disappearances, including how to capture a person's scent and safely store it in case the worst happens.

One of the project's aims is to improve

national response to high risk missing persons by encouraging agencies involved in responding to a disappearance to improve referral processes, response rates and awareness.

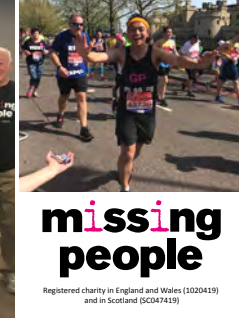


The project is being made possible by support from players of People's Postcode Lottery and Dream Fund.

To find out more visit [www.missingpeople.org.uk/searchdogheroes](http://www.missingpeople.org.uk/searchdogheroes)



September 2018



**missing people**

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

# GET TOGETHER

The newsletter from Missing People



As summer draws to a close, it's time to introduce the second **gettogether** newsletter. It has been a wonderful few months of warm weather and sunshine and we hope that reflects on some of the updates we have to share with you in this issue.

As this year marks the 25th anniversary of Missing People, in this issue we celebrate our founders Mary Asprey OBE and the late Janet Newman OBE, who set up the charity from their bedroom in 1986. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have come a long way in those 25 years. You can read more about how you have helped Missing People achieve key milestones inside, as well as learn about an exciting new project, Search Dogs Heroes, that will pave the way for the future to bring more vulnerable missing people back to safety.

Having led the charity Missing People for over 6 years and having been part of the charity for longer than that, I know how vital it is for us to support the family and friends of a missing person and to encourage them to hold onto memories. One family member said "...They make you feel like there is hope. They know what they are talking about and go out of their way to make you feel secure". We look forward to you joining us to celebrate memories at our annual Carol Service. I am delighted to announce that this year's Missing People London Carols will be held on Monday 10th December at St Martin-in-the-Fields. For further information, please turn to the back of the newsletter.

I hope you will enjoy reading this issue of **gettogether**. We'd love to know what you think about it; if you have feedback on our work, please email [supporters@missingpeople.org.uk](mailto:supporters@missingpeople.org.uk).

Jo Youle

Jo Youle  
Chief Executive



## LONDON CAROLS

Christmas for those with a missing loved one can be one of the most difficult times of year. The Missing People Carol Service is a special event bringing families and supporters together to stand in solidarity in the hope that one day those missing will return safe and well.



On the evening, there will be readings from family members and guests, along with performances from The Missing People Choir and The Royal Mail Voice Choir, as well as hymns and carols to remind us that when words fail, music speaks.

It is really important that at this time of year we come together as a community to show those who may not be feeling so festive that they have a hand to hold and that people care.

Tickets for the service on the 10th of December can be purchased from [www.missingpeople.org/carols](http://www.missingpeople.org/carols)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- **Bucket Collection:**  
Sutton United FC  
Saturday 22nd September
- **Royal Parks Half cheer squad:**  
Sunday 14th of October
- **Bucket Collection:**  
Major London Train Stations  
Friday 7th December
- **G4 Christmas Concerts**  
Visit the website for dates
- **London Christmas Carols:**  
Monday 10th December

Missing People, 284 Upper Richmond Road West, London SW14 7JE 020 8392 4590

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

Missing People is incorporated in England and Wales. Registered address. Registered company no. 2814202. Registered charity no. 1020419.

# A lifeline for a lifetime



This year marks the 25th anniversary of Missing People and the legacy left by our founders, sisters Mary Asprey OBE and the late Janet Newman OBE. When their friend Suzy Lamplugh went missing, the sisters wanted to do everything they could to find her, but realised there was not an organisation to report sightings and provide support to families. In 1986 they set up the charity from their bedroom to reach out to more people in need.

**1986** Suzy Lamplugh goes missing from Fulham in July. Due to the apparent lack of support for missing persons' families, the sisters establish the Suzy Lamplugh Trust

**1993** Mary and Janet re-mortgage their houses and register the National Missing Persons Helpline as a charity



**2010** Missing People and Police Service enter into a partnership. To this day, Missing People continues to provide frontline experience and a range of services for police handling missing person investigations, including taking referrals for family support, making Publicity Appeals and sending supportive text messages to missing children and adults

**2014** Missing People, in partnership with the National Crime Agency, CEOP and Groupcall, launches Child Rescue Alert – a nationwide alert system that has the potential to save a child's life in the event of an abduction in the UK



**2016** Launch of 1-2-1 live chat which allows children at risk to communicate directly and get the immediate help they need

**2018** 2018 Missing People partnerships with Lowland Rescue to search for vulnerable missing people that may have special educational needs, dementia or mental health issues



**1996** The first newsletter is launched, seeking funding from the public to support the helpline

Your support enables us to continue the sisters' legacy by offering a lifeline to those who go missing in the UK. If you would like to leave a legacy or a gift in your Will to support Missing People, you can find out more on [www.missingpeople.org.uk/legacy](http://www.missingpeople.org.uk/legacy) or by calling us on 020 8392 4520.

## SPOTLIGHT ON

Thanks to your support, our dedicated team of volunteers and staff work hard to ensure we can be a lifeline for people in crisis who are missing or thinking about going missing and their families.

**Nicki Durbin**, one of our helpline advisors and mother of a missing son, shares her experience of working on the helpline.

Nicki's son Luke went missing from Suffolk in 2006, and Missing People has supported Nicki and her family for several years. Luke remains missing, but Nicki has decided to use her personal experience and unique understanding of the issue to support others via the charity's crisis helpline.

“When Luke went missing, my life irreversibly changed. I constantly grieve for Luke but I'm unable to mourn for him. You're left living in limbo and feeling isolated. Missing People not only helped my family with the ongoing emotional impact of losing Luke but also helped generate publicity to



keep the search for him alive. With no new news, families with missing loved ones can struggle to retain media interest as the days turn into months and the months into years”.

It's not just family members who call the helpline. I regularly speak to vulnerable people who are missing, or thinking of leaving home as well. Whoever it is, I can offer non-judgmental support to allow them to talk about their situation, and, hopefully, I can help them to find comfort or a safe way home.

It is a real testament to the excellent support our helpline team give that Nicki was inspired to want to work for us.

## MISSING PEOPLE HIGHLIGHTS

Peter Lawrence, the father of Claudia who went missing in 2009, has been awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.



Over the years, Peter has become an incredible support, volunteer and campaigner for the charity. Last year, a new guardianship law allowing families to manage a missing loved one's properties and finances was given Royal Assent. Peter played an instrumental role as one of the families backing the campaign for almost six years.

Peter's tireless campaigning to raise awareness and generate change shows his commitment to helping other families. We couldn't be more delighted that Peter has been recognised in this way and we congratulate him on this exceptional accolade.

Earlier this year, we were lucky enough to be given the opportunity to appeal on BBC Radio 4. We were thrilled to have Jason Watkins share Ben Westwood's story. Ben is a former missing young person who works with us to raise awareness with the aim of preventing more young people running away. Thank you to those who donated to the appeal, with your help we was able to raise over £12,000 – incredible!

