

# STAYING IN TOUCH

**missing  
people**

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



Welcome to our July newsletter. We want to make sure we are letting you know what is happening at the charity for families and friends, who have experienced missing someone.

## SUPPORT FOR YOU

**Call or text 116 000 or  
email 116000@  
missingpeople.org.uk  
for free,  
confidential support**

**9am - 11pm,  
7 days a week**

Family Support are available every day 10-6pm providing both a listening ear and practical information to you and your family for as long as you need us.

We know the experience of missing someone is very difficult and can often be lonely and very challenging.

For some people they would rather talk to other people who are experiencing similar things. Come to our online meet-ups and our in person events. Being part of a group who understands can make a difference.

## ONLINE GROUPS

[Community forum](#)  
[Discussion board](#)

[Monthly Social](#)  
[Meet -ups online](#)

[Creative Writing](#)  
[group](#)

[Seated Yoga](#)



**Call/Text 116 000 for support**



# WELCOME TO MOLLY

Molly Leyshon-Small joins Missing People as our new Senior Support Services Manager.

A bit about Molly from her 'Hi Everyone! I've spent my career working in person centred, trauma informed services and safeguarding support. When I'm not working you'll find me watching scary movies, playing volleyball and sending everyone endless photos of my cat.'



## POEMS FROM CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

*Garden of memories  
A space to reflect  
On the passing of time  
And remember the laughter and joy  
Of the person who is not here*

*A single pink rose  
More regal than others  
Each petal embraces another  
Like a hug for the person who is not here*

*A gentle breeze  
Moves the blades of grass  
Over the long forgotten footprints  
Of the person who is not here*

*by Marlena O'Donnell*

*I DIDN'T THINK SOMEONE LIKE ME  
WOULD BE SCARED OF A SMALL BUMBLE BEE!  
But On EATING MY.BUN  
I STARTED to run  
As the BEE, as you SEE, followed ME.!!boom BOOM*

*by Tina O'Donnell*



Call/Text 116 000 for support



# UPDATES FROM JO



I didn't imagine we'd be in the middle of a General Election right now. By the time you're reading this we will most likely have a new government. Rest assured, whatever party is in power, we will be relentless in ensuring that going missing is understood as a crisis. And that fewer people come to harm. And that all missing people and their loved ones get the right help at the right time. We have recently launched the principles for the police response to missing people and their families. Susannah Drury from the Missing People team talked about this on BBC Breakfast in June after an interview with the devastated family of missing Jack O'Sullivan. Susannah Drury re missing Jack O'Sullivan BBC Breakfast 14 June 2024.

[Watch the video here](#)

I know many of you were part of creating the 'Missing You' stunning border garden at BBC Gardeners' World Live in June of last year. A long-term charity supporter made a donation for these sculptures – and she shared these beautiful photos of them recently. A rainbow of hope.



We're pleased to welcome 4 new Trustees to Missing People – each bringing their unique experiences and expertise to our community.

[You can see Anindita, Louise, James and Rachel's profiles here.](#)



Call/Text 116 000 for support



# POLICE RESPONSE TO MISSING PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

In May, we launched the [Principles for the police response to missing people and their families](#). These Principles are based on existing police guidance, they don't create new expectations, but hopefully set out a more consistent approach to what everyone should be able to expect if they are reported missing, or report a loved one missing. They are only the minimum basics, we know there is much more the police need to do for some investigations, but we hope they will be helpful to people who want to understand what should happen, and to the police by encouraging them to offer the same service to everyone.

When we launched the Principles we asked people to write to their Police and Crime Commissioner asking them to ensure the Principles were embedded in their force's practice, and to prioritise the response to missing people generally. We had 137 emails sent to 36 different PCCs which we were really pleased with – this helps PCCs to understand that missing is a priority for the public in their area. We also know that the National Lead for Missing in the police emailed all forces asking them to include the Principles in their internal communications and in training. We will continue to work with forces to make sure they are following the Principles. And we will try to raise awareness with the public so people know what they should be able to expect.

[Learn more about the Principles for the Police Response.](#)

If you would like to share your experiences of police response to missing people and their families please email: [josie.allan@missingpeople.org.uk](mailto:josie.allan@missingpeople.org.uk)



Call/Text 116 000 for support

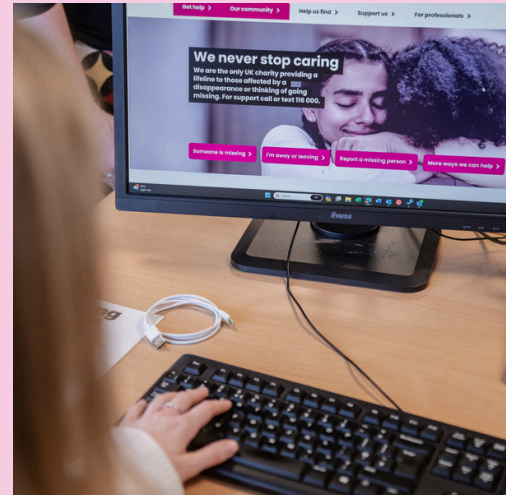


# SHARE YOUR OPINION

## AUTISM RESEARCH

We are conducting research about the links between autism and missing. We would love to hear from you if you are autistic and have experience of going missing. If you would like to take part in our research on to talk more about it, please visit our website.

[Learn more about our  
Autism Research](#)



## IMPACT SURVEY

We would like to understand more about the impact Missing People's support has had on you. What have we done well? Where could we improve? By taking part in the survey, your comments will help us improve our services for other families in a similar situation.

Your answers to the questionnaire will remain completely confidential and data is stored securely. We will include your responses in reports on our services but the information will always be anonymised.

[Complete the survey  
here](#)

## DO YOU WANT PUBLICITY?

We want to make sure we know which families are happy to talk to the media when we get requests. We also want to make sure we are including your loved one in as much publicity as we can. Please do make sure we know your wishes.

[Publicity Preferences](#)



Call/Text 116 000 for support





# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## TOGETHER TO REMEMBER AND WALK IN SOLIDARITY

**Saturday September 21st.**

We are inviting everyone to come together to 'Walk in Solidarity' on the same day around Palewell Park. Families, staff and volunteers will walk together in solidarity, ending our walk at the Memory tree where we will start our Together to Remember service.

This annual event was created as a space for remembering, so that families can share memories or messages for, or in memory of, their loved one. We invite families to send us messages so that these messages can take the physical form of leaves on our Missing People Memory Tree. If you would like to email your short message please do so to [familysupport@missingpeople.org.uk](mailto:familysupport@missingpeople.org.uk)

Together to  
Remember

## EVENING OF HOPE

The Evening of Hope 2024 will take place on the 2nd of December- more details to follow.



Call/Text 116 000 for support



# FAMILY DAY 2024

It was lovely to see our families join us for Family Day 2024. We heard from speakers, including Pascale talking about Missing and Moral Injury, and Locate International talking about their investigative system.

The Creative Writing team led a session and the families also had an opportunity to make an aromastick using essential oils.

The day ended with the Choir completing a Walk and Sing. Family and friends joined them to sing out for our missing people. It was a great fundraising success and lovely to see how former members of the choir join us.



Call/Text 116 000 for support



# A SPOTLIGHT ON.....

## LIAM

Liam joined Missing People in 2022 as Digital Marketing Manager. He develops the Missing People website, our social media channels, and our email marketing to supporters.

Before joining Missing People, he worked in the non-profit and fundraising space – including voluntary work for organisations such as Food Plymouth CIC and Young Lives Vs Cancer. In his spare time, Liam enjoys weight-lifting, attending gigs, and walking his small dog.



We are always keen for people to share their experience of missing with us and publish it on our website. The value for other families to be able to read how others have managed is really significant. Please consider if you would like to share your story.

[Share your story.](#)

## STAYING IN TOUCH



Please let us know how you would like us to stay in contact with you. It is important that you know about what is going on and that we are contacting you in the right way and about the right things. Equally if you would prefer us to change or stop contacting you, please do let us know.

[Let us know how to stay in touch.](#)



Call/Text 116 000 for support

