

Birthday plea for missing Martin

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A FRESH information appeal has been launched to mark the 29th birthday of Holywood man Martin Kelly who disappeared over seven years ago.

It is the latest attempt to find clues about what became of Martin since he went missing outside a Belfast bar at the age of 21 on January 1, 2006.

His dad Raymond Kelly says he is still looking for the first part of the jigsaw which could ultimately complete the picture of what has become of Martin who would have celebrated his 29th birthday recently.

He said, "In particular I would appeal to the witnesses who were with Martin in the bar that night to revisit the scene in their minds to see if they can jog their memories in any way.

"We don't want people to think that because it is now seven years down the line that there is no point in coming forward, that it is too late in some way or another to do anything.

"As far as we are concerned everything is still to play for here and I would appeal for anyone with any scrap of information, no matter how small, to let us know about it, whatever it is.

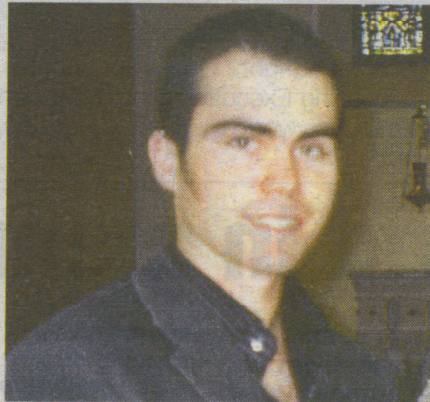
"It could be that someone considers what they know, or have seen, to be of little importance or even irrelevant, but they should let others be the judge of

that and come forward.

"If anyone has a problem with doing so to the police for any reason, they can still give the information through a variety of other channels.

"For example they could go to a priest or a minister or contact the Missing Persons Helpline. The free phone number for that is 0800 700 700."

Martin, an apprentice plumber and part-time barman in the Old Priory Inn in Holywood, was last seen on January 1, 2006.



Martin Kelly has been missing for over seven years.

He had spent New Year's Eve working in the Holywood bar and was celebrating the New Year with friends in Pat's Bar in Belfast's Clarendon Dock the next day.

Martin was last seen when he left the bar at about 7.30pm, possibly intending to return to his home in the Kinnegar

area of Holywood.

Exhaustive land and sea searches and a high profile publicity campaign across Britain and Ireland have so far failed to turn up any clues as to what happened to Martin Kelly.

Just a few nights before his disappearance Martin attended a party in Carmichaels of Holywood, where he was seen chatting, joking and laughing with friends.

Searches were conducted by police and other divers of the harbour where Martin disappeared.

Hundreds of volunteers joined extensive searches along the shores of Belfast Lough and the marshlands known as the Kinnegar Lagoons, which border the harbour estate.

At one point a specially trained dog, which can sniff out evidence of human remains in the water, was used in additional searches of the harbour.

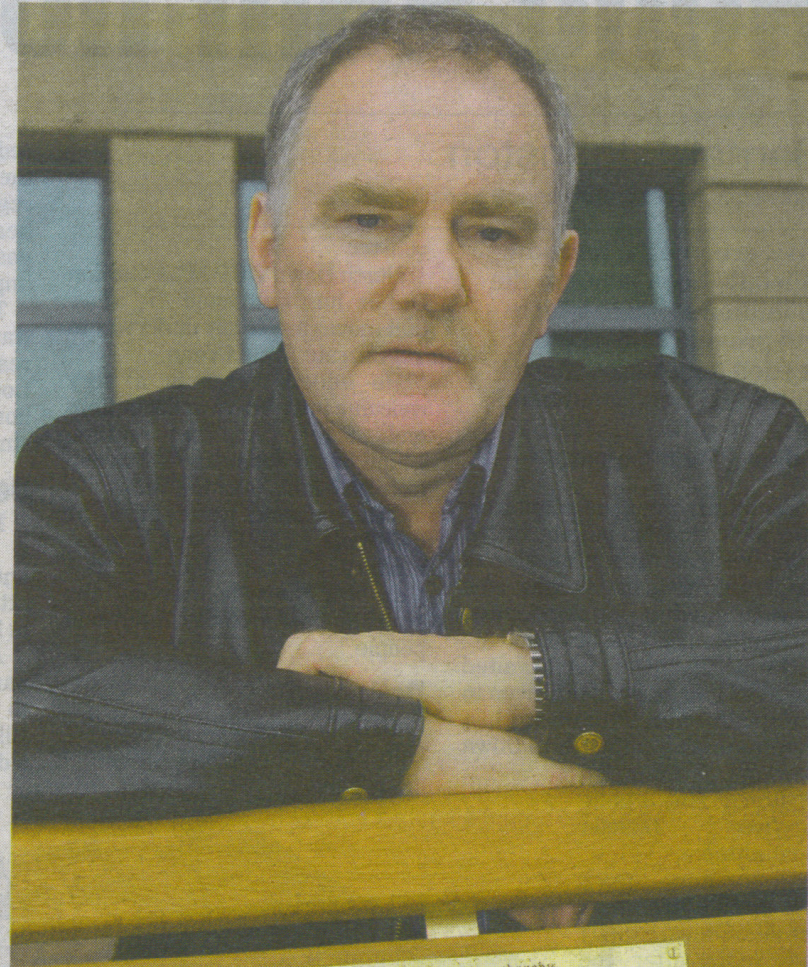
Martin's family members conducted their own relentless searches for any scrap of information as to what has become of him.

Martin Kelly is described as being six feet one inch tall and of slim build with short dark black hair.

When last seen over seven years ago he was wearing a black Guinness T-shirt and a pair of blue jeans.

The investigation into Martin's case is being conducted by the PSNI at Musgrave Street station in Belfast. They can be contacted on 0845 600 8000.

Further information can be obtained via the website, at www.ourmartykelly.com



Raymond Kelly, pictured last year with the bench dedicated to the memory of his son Martin who went missing in the Belfast Docks area on January 1, 2006. He has issued a fresh appeal for information.