

Mother's UK search for missing Martin



POSITIVE NOTE: Fiona and Caollin Kelly, concert organiser Mari Jackson and Karen Kelly with grandson Aodham Kelly. Martin Kelly, inset Picture: Bernie Brown

FAMILY and friends of missing Co Down man Martin Kelly have organised a two-night concert this weekend to raise funds for their ongoing search for him.

The *One for Marty*, *Two for Marty* gigs, which will see performances from 12 top local bands, takes place on Friday and Saturday night in his home town of Holywood.

Martin was last seen leaving a bar in the Clarendon docks area of Belfast on New Year's Day.

It had been widely feared the plumber and part-time bar man, who was 21 when he disappeared, fell into Belfast Lough and drowned.

However, his family have not given up hope that he will be found alive.

His mother, Karen, believes her son could have developed a rare form of amnesia, brought on by excessive alcohol consumption on the night he went missing, and may have made his way over to the UK mainland.

Mrs Kelly now plans to travel the length of Great Britain, starting in Scotland and making her way down to London, to look for her son and raise awareness about his disappearance.

The gigs in St Patrick's Hall will raise money for her painful journey and also for the National Missing Persons Helpline.

"The only thing I have now is hope," Mrs Kelly, who is recovering from a cancer scare, said.

"This is the only thing I can do now, other than just sit on the sofa hoping for the phone to ring.

"We've tried everything we could here and no body has been found. So we thought:

BY DAVID YOUNG

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"what if there could be a chance he's on the mainland?"

"There is a condition called phobic amnesia, where the brain completely closes down and you can forget who you are.

"Sometimes this can last for a day, but sometimes it can last for months or longer.

"It can be brought on by alcohol, stress or lack of sleep, and it can happen at any age."

"We are just hoping that's what has happened to Martin and that, somehow, he has ended up somewhere on the mainland not knowing who he is."

While away, Mrs Kelly will contact all the main supermarket chains and ask them to carry Martin's picture, and images of other missing young people in the UK, on the side of their lorries.

"Some 20,000 kids have gone missing for no apparent reason," she said.

"There are no family or health problems or anything like that, they just go missing."

Twelve local bands, six performing each night, are giving off their time for free to play at the fundraising concerts.

Since his disappearance five months ago, the Kelly family have celebrated Martin's 22nd birthday in his absence and his sister, Fiona, has also given birth to a son called Aodham Martin.

For further information about Martin Kelly and the *One for Marty*, *Two for Marty* concerts log on to www.ourmartykelly.com

Town gets set for air spectacular

THE Breitling Jet team will take to the skies above North Down to entertain visitors at the August Bank Holiday event in Bangor, the tourism department confirmed

yesterday. Tourism manager Christine Mahon said: "This is a great opportunity for all in the borough to see these wonderful jets perform an

exhilarating display over the town." "We have worked hard to secure an exciting programme for this year's event and we have tried to cater for all ages."

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