

# Hollywood's Martin Kelly missing for eight years

**THIS is the happy-go-lucky Hollywood man who has been missing for eight years now but has never been forgotten by his family and friends in the town.**

Martin Kelly was aged 21 and working as an apprentice plumber and part-time barman in the Old Priory Inn in Hollywood, when he was last seen on January 1 2006.

He had spent New Year's Eve working in the Hollywood 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 Hollywood.

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 him.

The young Hollywood man definitely had everything to live for and was in the prime of his life when he disappeared.

He had embarked on a promising apprenticeship and supplemented that income with part-time work in the Hollywood bar.

Just a few years prior to his disappearance Martin had worked in an orphanage in Africa between the ages of 17 and 18 and aspired to return there to help again.

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

There are only theories as to what has become of the young Hollywood man.

Could he have fallen into the docks and tragically drowned, with his body becoming trapped or snagged under the water in some way?

Could he have lost his memory after being innocently injured in some way or even been attacked by persons unknown?

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.

His mum Karen embarked on her own month long search mission to highlight his case across England, Scotland and Wales.

Her trip, during which she fell ill with suspected heart trouble, publicised his case in 14 cities with accompanying TV, radio and newspaper information appeals.

The journey was funded with the proceeds of two charity tribute concerts which were held for Martin in his home town and raised over £12,000.

Martin's dad Raymond extended his own search for his missing son to the south of the border.

He went to the Republic on a number of occasions in search of any scrap of information, including trips to Dublin, Limerick and Clare.

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

When last seen eight 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.

Alternatively people may contact the free phone number for The Missing Persons Helpline is 0800 700 700.

Further information can be obtained via [www.ourmartykelly.com](http://www.ourmartykelly.com)



Martin Kelly - still missing