Belfast Telegraph Page 1 of 1

Belfast Telegraph | Sunday Life | Ireland's Saturday Night | Business Telegraph | Jobfinder | Homefinder

Belfast Telegraph

- + Business + Business Telegraph
- + Features
- + Letters
- + Telegraph Columnists
- + Opinion + Northwest Edition
- + Northwest Weekly
- + Education
- + Interactive Letters

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- + Premiership
- + Rugby + Gaelic Games
- Lifestyle

- + Arts + Film & TV
- + Food & Drink
- + Music + Health & Beauty
- + Motoring
- + Travel
- + Telegraph Travel
- + Special Interest
- Twentyfourseven Homefinder
- + Property News
- + Property Features

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- + Latest News
- + Results + Profiles
- . + Match Analysis
- + Factfile

Belfast Telegraph Home > News

Police divers fail to find missing Holywood man

By Debra Douglas

07 February 2006

Searches for missing Co Down man Martin Kelly are expected to continue today in the River Lagan.

The 21-year-old, from Holywood, has not been seen since leaving Pat's Bar in the docks area of Belfast on New Year's Day, and yesterday, specialist divers, under the direction of the PSNI's dive team leader, carried out searches in the docks area for three hours.

Police boats also continued to carry out searches along the water but nothing has yet been

A police spokesman said the searches will continue. He added that from tomorrow correct the divers will have the use of side-scan sonar.

Yesterday, CCTV footage which shows a person standing in the area where Martin was last seen was also sent off to be examined in more detail.

In recent weeks the Kelly family have been critical of the police response to Martin's disappearance but welcomed the decision to commence the searches.

Speaking to the Belfast Telegraph, Martin's heartbroken mother Karen said: "They have said that as long as there isn't another tragedy like Ardglass the divers could be there for two to three weeks," she said.

Last Thursday, Martin's family and friends launched a website in the hope it will jog someone's memory.

Leaflets have also been distributed outside the Odyssey Arena and last Sunday family and friends released 100 yellow balloons as a symbolic gesture of hope before taking part in a search of the Docklands and surrounding areas.

The website address is www.ourmartykelly.com

Visitors to the site are urged to contact the police or the missing persons helpline if they have any information on Martin.

Back | Return to top | Printable Story



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