

## = Murder of Joanna Yeates =

Joanna Clare Yeates ( 19 April 1985 ? 17 December 2010 ) was a landscape architect from Hampshire , England , who went missing on 17 December 2010 in Bristol after an evening out with colleagues . Following a highly publicised appeal for information on her whereabouts and intensive police enquiries , her body was discovered on 25 December 2010 in Failand , North Somerset . A post @-@ mortem examination determined that she had been strangled .

The murder inquiry , codenamed Operation Braid , was one of the largest police investigations ever undertaken in the Bristol area . The case dominated news coverage in the United Kingdom around the Christmas period as Yeates ' family sought assistance from the public through social networking services and press conferences . Rewards amounting to £ 60 @,@ 000 were offered for information leading to those responsible for Yeates ' death . The police initially suspected and arrested Christopher Jefferies , Yeates ' landlord , who lived in a flat in the same building . He was subsequently released without charge .

Vincent Tabak , a 32 @-@ year @-@ old Dutch engineer and neighbour of Yeates , was arrested on 20 January 2011 . Media attention at the time centred on the filming of a re @-@ enactment of her disappearance for the BBC 's programme , Crimewatch . After two days of questioning , Tabak was charged on 22 January 2011 with Yeates ' murder . On 5 May 2011 , he pleaded guilty to Yeates ' manslaughter , but denied murdering her . His trial started on 4 October 2011 ; he was found guilty of murder on 28 October 2011 , and sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 20 years .

The nature of press reporting on aspects of the case led to legal proceedings against several UK newspapers . Libel action was brought by Jefferies against eight publications over their coverage of his arrest , resulting in the payment to him of substantial damages . The Daily Mirror and The Sun were found guilty of contempt of court for reporting information that could prejudice a trial . A memorial service was held for Yeates at the parish church in the Bristol suburb where she lived ; her funeral took place near the family home in Hampshire . Several memorials were planned , including one in a garden she had been designing for a new hospital in Bristol .

## = = Background and disappearance = =

Joanna Clare Yeates was born on 19 April 1985 to David and Teresa Yeates in Hampshire , England . She was privately educated at Embley Park near Romsey . Yeates studied for her A @-@ levels at Peter Symonds College and graduated with a degree in landscape architecture from Writtle College . She received her Postgraduate diploma in landscape architecture from the University of Gloucestershire .

In December 2008 , Yeates met then @-@ 25 @-@ year @-@ old fellow landscape architect Greg Reardon at the firm Hyland Edgar Driver in Winchester . The couple moved in together in 2009 , and settled in Bristol when the company moved there . Yeates later changed jobs to work at the Building Design Partnership in Bristol . Yeates and Reardon moved into a flat at 44 Canynge Road in the city 's Clifton suburb in October 2010 .

At approximately 8 : 00 pm on 19 December 2010 , Reardon returned home from a weekend visit to Sheffield to find Yeates absent from their flat on Canynge Road , Clifton . Reardon had been trying to contact her by phone and text , but without success . While awaiting Yeates ' return , Reardon called her again , but her mobile phone rang from a pocket of her coat , which was still in the flat . He found that her purse and keys were also at the flat , and that their cat appeared to have been neglected . Shortly after half past midnight , Reardon contacted the police and Yeates ' parents to report her missing .

Investigators determined Yeates had spent the evening of 17 December 2010 with colleagues at the Bristol Ram pub on Park Street , leaving at around 8 : 00 pm to begin the 30 @-@ minute walk home . She told friends and colleagues that she was not looking forward to spending the weekend alone as it would be her first in the flat without Reardon ; she planned to spend her time baking in preparation for a party the couple would be throwing the following week , and shopping for

Christmas . Yeates was seen on closed @-@ circuit television ( CCTV ) at around 8 : 10 pm leaving a Waitrose supermarket without purchasing anything . She phoned her best friend , Rebecca Scott , at 8 : 30 pm to arrange a meeting on Christmas Eve . The last known footage of Yeates recorded her buying a pizza from a branch of Tesco Express at around 8 : 40 pm . She had also bought two small bottles of cider at a nearby off @-@ licence , Bargain Booze .

= = Search , public appeal , and discovery of body = =

Reardon and Yeates ' friends set up a website and used social networking services to help look for her . On 21 December 2010 , Yeates ' parents and Reardon made a public appeal for her safe return at a police press conference . In another press conference , broadcast live on 23 December 2010 by Sky News and BBC News , Yeates ' father David commented on her disappearance : " I think she was abducted after getting home to her flat ... I have no idea of the circumstances of the abduction because of what was left behind ... I feel sure she would not have gone out by herself leaving all these things behind and she was taken away somewhere " . Her keys , phone , purse and coat were left behind at her flat . Detectives retrieved a receipt for a pizza , but found no sign of it or of its packaging . Both bottles of cider were found in the flat , one of them partially consumed . As there was no evidence of forced entry or a struggle , investigators began to examine the possibility that Yeates may have known her abductor .

On 25 December 2010 , a fully clothed body was found in the snow by a couple walking their dogs along Longwood Lane near a golf course and next to the entrance of a quarry in Failand , approximately 3 miles ( 4 @. @ 8 km ) from her home . The body was identified by police as that of Yeates . Reardon and the Yeates family visited the site of the discovery on 27 December 2010 . David Yeates said that the family " had been told to prepare for the worst " and expressed relief that his daughter 's body had been recovered . Funeral arrangements were delayed as investigators retained the body . The pathologist Dr Nat Carey consented to the release of the body on 31 January 2011 .

= = Investigation = =

The investigation , called " Operation Braid " , comprised 80 detectives and civilian staff under the direction of Detective Chief Inspector Phil Jones , a senior officer with Avon and Somerset Constabulary 's major crime investigation unit . It became one of the largest police operations in the Constabulary 's history . Jones urged the public to come forward with any information to help catch the killer , especially potential witnesses who were in the vicinity of Longwood Lane in Failand in the period before Yeates ' body was discovered . He stated that the investigation was seeking the driver of a " light @-@ coloured 4x4 vehicle " for questioning .

Jones said that officers had been " inundated with thousands of calls " and were " exhausting every lead and avenue that [ they were ] provided with . " Police examined over 100 hours of surveillance footage along with 293 tonnes ( 293 @, @ 000 kg ) of rubbish seized from the area around Yeates ' flat . Crime Stoppers offered a £ 10 @, @ 000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of her murderer , while The Sun newspaper offered £ 50 @, @ 000 . Authorities advised people living in the area to secure their homes , and warned women not to walk alone after dark . Speaking on 29 December about the murder investigation Yeates ' father said , " I fear that whoever has done this will never hand themselves in , but we live in hope that the police will catch who is responsible . "

= = Post mortem and initial enquiries = = =

Following the discovery of Yeates ' body , detectives from the Avon and Somerset Constabulary issued an appeal for anyone with information about the death to come forward , and investigated similarities with other unsolved cases . Of particular interest to them were those of 20 @-@ year @-@ old Glenis Carruthers who was strangled in 1974 , Melanie Hall , aged 25 , who disappeared

in 1996 and whose body was discovered thirteen years later , and 35 @-@ year @-@ old Claudia Lawrence who went missing in 2009 . Investigators identified " striking similarities " between the Yeates and Hall cases , notably their age and appearance , and that they had disappeared after returning home from meeting friends , but the possibility of such connections was later downplayed by authorities . The police gathered surveillance video from Clifton Suspension Bridge , which forms part of the most direct route from the crime scene to the Clifton suburb where Yeates was last seen alive . The footage was of poor quality , making it impossible to clearly distinguish individuals or car registration numbers . Investigators were aware that the perpetrator could have used an alternative bridge across the River Avon less than a mile to the south to avoid CCTV coverage .

A post mortem examination began on 26 December 2010 , though results were delayed due to the frozen condition of the body . Police initially thought it possible that Yeates froze to death because her body showed no visible signs of injury . Investigators announced on 28 December 2010 that the case had become a murder inquiry as the pathologist who performed her autopsy determined that Yeates had died as a result of strangulation . The post mortem indicated that she had died " ... several days before being discovered " on 25 December 2010 . The examination also confirmed that Yeates did not eat the pizza she had purchased . Detective Chief Inspector Jones stated that the investigation found " ... no evidence to suggest that Joanna was sexually assaulted " . The police searched Reardon 's laptop computer and mobile phone as part of standard procedure . Reardon was ruled out as a suspect and treated as a witness .

A young woman attending a party at a neighbouring house on Canynge Road on the night of Yeates ' disappearance recalled hearing two loud screams shortly after 9 : 00 pm coming from the direction of Yeates ' flat . Another neighbour who lived behind Yeates ' home said that he heard a woman 's voice scream " Help me " , although he could not recall exactly when the incident had occurred . Officers removed the front door to Yeates ' flat to check for clothing fibres and DNA evidence , with investigators examining the possibility that the perpetrator had entered the flat before Yeates returned home .

= = = Further enquiries = = =

Senior officers from the investigation asked for assistance from the National Policing Improvement Agency , which provides expertise for difficult cases . On 4 January 2011 , a clinical forensic psychologist , who had previously been involved as a criminal profiler in other high profile murder cases , joined the investigation to help narrow down the number of potential suspects . Jones stated that his officers had established over 1 @,@ 000 lines of inquiry . Jones said , " I can assure you , we are determined to solve this crime and bring Jo 's killers to justice . " On 5 January , Detective Chief Inspector Jones announced that one of Yeates ' socks was missing when she was found dead and that it had not been found at the crime scene or in her home .

Police launched a national advertising campaign to appeal for witnesses through Facebook . The page , established on 4 January , had been viewed nearly 250 @,@ 000 times by the following day , while CCTV footage of Yeates had been viewed 120 @,@ 000 times on YouTube by 5 January .

On 9 January 2011 , Bristol East MP Kerry McCarthy gave her support to the idea of a public DNA screening process if the police found it useful . The Avon and Somerset Constabulary had conducted mass DNA screening during the 1995 investigation into the disappearance of then @-@ 18 @-@ year @-@ old Louise Smith . McCarthy suggested that the screening process should be extended beyond Clifton to the wider Bristol area . DNA that had been found on Yeates ' body was tested for a potential profile . Detectives also began tracking the movements of several hundred registered sex offenders living within their jurisdiction to determine the individuals ' whereabouts on 17 December .

= = = Arrests and reconstruction of crime = = =

Shortly after 7 : 00 am on 30 December 2010 , Christopher Jefferies , Yeates ' landlord who lived in the same building , was arrested on suspicion of her murder . He was taken to a local police station

for questioning while forensic investigators inspected his flat . On 31 December , a senior police officer granted investigators a 12 @-@ hour extension to the arrest , enabling them to hold him in custody for additional questioning . Police subsequently applied to magistrates for further extensions which were granted on 31 December and 1 January . Investigators were able to detain him as a suspect for up to 96 hours , but released Jefferies on bail after two days . He retained the legal services of the law firm Stokoe Partnership to act on his behalf . On 4 March 2011 , police released him from bail and stated he was no longer a suspect . He subsequently won an undisclosed sum in libel damages for defamatory news articles published following his arrest , and received an apology from Avon and Somerset Police for any distress caused to him during the investigation .

In January 2011 , a reconstruction of the case was filmed on location in Bristol for broadcast in the 26 January edition of the BBC television programme Crimewatch . Snow Business , a Gloucestershire @-@ based firm that had been involved in the production of the Harry Potter films was contracted to reproduce the snowy conditions at the time of Yeates ' disappearance . The reconstruction of Yeates ' last movements was filmed on 18 January , and within 24 hours of news coverage about the production , over 300 people contacted the police . A breakthrough led investigators to believe that Yeates ' body might have been transported in a large holdall or suitcase .

On the morning of 20 January , the Avon and Somerset Constabulary arrested 32 @-@ year @-@ old Dutch engineer Vincent Tabak , who lived with his girlfriend in the flat next door to Yeates . However , authorities declined to reveal additional details while the suspect was being interrogated due to concerns over controversial media coverage of Jefferies ' arrest , which had breached the rules governing what can be reported when an individual is arrested . The Tabak arrest followed an anonymous tip from a female caller , shortly after a televised appeal by Yeates ' parents on Crimewatch . Canynge Road was closed by police while scaffolding was constructed around Yeates ' home ; and officers sealed off Tabak 's adjacent flat . Investigators also searched the nearby townhouse of a friend , where Tabak was believed to have been staying , about a mile away . Tabak had previously been ruled out as a suspect during an earlier stage of the investigation , and had returned to Britain from a holiday visit to his family in the Netherlands .

Following Tabak 's arrest , the BBC cancelled its plans to air the Yeates re @-@ enactment on Crimewatch . On 31 January , previously unseen photos of Yeates were released through the programme 's website .

= = = DNA tests = = =

DNA tests were carried out by LGC Forensics , a private company which undertakes forensic analysis for criminal investigations . Lindsey Lennen , a body fluids and DNA specialist member of the team that analysed DNA samples from Yeates ' body , said that although DNA swabs matched Tabak , they were not of sufficient quality to be evaluated . The team deployed a method known as DNA SenCE , which enhances unusable DNA samples through purification and concentration : " We couldn 't say whether the DNA was from saliva , or semen , or even touch . But we could say that the probability of it not being a match with Tabak was less than one in a billion . "

= = Legal proceedings and perpetrator = =

= = = Murder charge and plea = = =

After questioning during 96 hours of detention , Tabak was charged on 22 January 2011 with the murder of Joanna Yeates . He made a brief appearance at Bristol 's Magistrates ' Court on 24 January and was remanded in custody . Tabak , legally represented by Paul Cook , declined to request bail during a hearing the following day . Tabak was moved from Bristol Prison because of fears for his safety , and was placed under suicide watch at Long Lartin Prison near Evesham . Tabak 's family and friends in the Netherlands started to raise funds for his court defence .

Tabak initially maintained he was not responsible for Joanna Yeates ' death , claiming that DNA evidence linking him to the crime had been fabricated by corrupt officials . However , on 8 February , he told Peter Brotherton , a prison chaplain , that he had killed her and intended to plead guilty .

On 5 May 2011 , Vincent Tabak pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of Yeates , but denied murdering her . His plea of guilty to manslaughter was rejected by the Crown Prosecution Service . On 20 September , Tabak appeared in person at a pre @-@ trial hearing at Bristol Crown Court . Appearances at previous hearings had been made via videolink from prison .

= = = Vincent Tabak = = =

Vincent Tabak ( born 10 February 1978 ) was a Dutch engineer who had lived and worked in the United Kingdom since 2007 . The youngest of five siblings , he was raised in Uden , 21 miles ( 34 km ) north of Eindhoven . Tabak 's childhood next @-@ door neighbour , John Massoeurs , described him after the trial as an intelligent " introverted " loner . Tabak studied at Eindhoven University of Technology beginning in 1996 , graduating with an MSc in architecture , building and planning in 2003 , then began a PhD in which his thesis was a study of how people use space in office buildings and public areas . The paper was published in 2008 .

Leaving university in 2007 , he moved to the United Kingdom after taking a job at the headquarters of Buro Happold , an engineering consultancy firm in Bath , and settled in a flat in the town . He worked as a " people flow analyst " , a role which required him to examine how people move around public spaces such as schools , airports and sports stadia . While living in Bath he established a relationship with a woman he first met through The Guardian 's online dating website Soulmates . She was later described by the newspaper as his first serious girlfriend ; he paid tribute to her in the acknowledgements of his thesis : " I am very happy she entered my life . " The couple moved to a flat in Canynge Road , Bristol , in June 2009 . Though Joanna Yeates and her partner moved into the neighbouring flat in Canynge Road in late 2010 , she and Tabak did not meet prior to 17 December .

After killing Yeates , Tabak attempted to cast suspicion for the murder onto Jefferies after watching a news broadcast about the case while spending the New Year with relatives in the Netherlands . He contacted Avon and Somerset Police to tell them that Jefferies had been using his car on the night of 17 December , and a CID officer , DC Karen Thomas , was sent to Amsterdam to talk to him . They met at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport on 31 December , where Tabak elaborated on his story , but Thomas grew suspicious of his interest in the forensic work being carried out by the police and because what he said did not concur with a previous statement .

In the months leading up to Yeates ' death , Tabak had used his computer to research escort agencies during business trips in the United Kingdom and United States , and contacted several prostitutes by phone . He also viewed violent internet pornography that depicted women being controlled by men , showing images of them being bound and gagged , held by the neck and choked . During the murder investigation , police found images of a woman who bore a striking resemblance to Yeates . In one scene she was shown pulling up a pink top to expose her bra and breasts . When Yeates was discovered , she was wearing a similarly arranged pink top .

At Tabak 's trial , prosecuting barrister Nigel Lickley QC , argued that the evidence of Tabak 's activities should be provided to the jury : " It might shed light on the need to hold a woman for long enough and the need to squeeze hard enough to take her life . " Details of Tabak 's viewing of pornography were not included in the prosecution 's case since the judge believed it did not prove that Tabak had acted with premeditation . After the trial it was disclosed that images of child pornography had been found on Tabak 's laptop . In December 2013 , the Crown Prosecution Service announced that he would be prosecuted for possessing the material . On 2 March 2015 , Tabak pleaded guilty to possessing indecent images of children , and was sentenced to 10 months in jail .

= = = Trial = = =

The trial of Vincent Tabak started on 4 October 2011 at the Crown Court at Bristol before Mr Justice Field and a jury . His counsel in the trial was William Clegg QC and the prosecutor was Nigel Lickley QC . Tabak pleaded guilty to manslaughter , but denied murder .

The prosecution case was that Tabak had strangled Yeates at her flat within minutes of her arrival home on 17 December 2010 , using " sufficient force " to kill her . The prosecutors stated that Tabak ? around a foot ( 30 cm ) taller than Yeates ? had used his height and build to overpower her , pinning her to the floor by the wrists , and that she had suffered 43 separate injuries to her head , neck , torso and arms during the struggle . The injuries included cuts , bruises , and a fractured nose . Lickley told the court that the struggle was lengthy , and her death would have been slow and painful . However , he did not offer an explanation for the reasoning behind Tabak 's initial attack on Yeates .

Evidence was presented that Tabak had then tried to conceal the crime by disposing of her body . The court heard that DNA swabs taken from Yeates ' body had provided a match with Tabak . Samples found behind the knees of her jeans indicated she may have been held by the legs as she was carried , while fibres suggested contact with Tabak 's coat and car . Blood stains were found on a wall overlooking a quarry close to where Yeates was discovered . The prosecution also said that Tabak attempted to implicate Jefferies for the murder during the police investigation , and that in the days following Yeates ' death , he had made internet searches for topics that included the length of time a body takes to decompose and the dates of refuse collections in the Clifton area .

In his defence , Tabak claimed that the killing had not been sexually motivated , and told the court that he had killed Yeates while trying to silence her after she screamed when he tried to kiss her . He claimed that Yeates had made a " flirty comment " and invited him to drink with her . He said that after she screamed he held his hands over her mouth and around her neck to silence her . He denied suggestions of a struggle , claiming to have held Yeates by the neck with only minimal force , and " ... for about 20 seconds " . He told the court that after dumping the body he was " ... in a state of panic " .

The jury was sent out to deliberate on 26 October , and returned with a verdict two days later . On 28 October 2011 , Tabak was found guilty of Joanna Yeates ' murder by a 10 to 2 majority verdict . He was jailed for life , with a minimum term of 20 years . Passing sentence , Mr Justice Field referred to a " sexual element " to the killing .

= = Media controversy = =

The manner in which certain aspects of the case were reported by the British media led to television broadcaster ITN being temporarily banned from attending press conferences , and the instigation of legal proceedings against several newspapers by both Yeates ' former landlord , and the Attorney General .

Following a television news report on 4 January 2011 that criticised the handling of the investigation , ITN reporters were banned by the Avon and Somerset Constabulary from attending a press conference convened to give updates on the murder case . The item , presented by journalist Geraint Vincent , claimed police had made little progress with their investigation , and questioned whether they were following correct procedural methods . A former murder squad detective told the report that " certain routine inquiries " such as looking for fresh evidence at the crime scene were not being carried out . ITN accused the police of attempting " to censor what information we can broadcast " while the constabulary filed a complaint with the Office of Communications , calling the broadcast " unfair , naïve and irresponsible reporting " . The police subsequently lifted the sanctions against ITN , but said that they would " not hesitate to adopt similar tactics in the future . " Legal action was also considered over a tweet revealing that Tabak had viewed internet pornography showing erotic asphyxiation and bondage . The contempt of court charges were dropped after the tweet was removed .

Writing in London 's Evening Standard on 5 January 2011 , media commentator Roy Greenslade expressed concern over a number of negative articles that had appeared in newspapers concerning Yeates ' landlord , Jefferies , following his arrest , describing the coverage as " character

assassination on a large scale ". He cited several examples of headlines and stories that had been published , including a headline in The Sun describing Jefferies ? a former schoolmaster at Clifton College ? as weird , posh , lewd and creepy ; a story from the Daily Express quoting unnamed former pupils referring to him as " ... a sort of Nutty Professor " who made them feel " creeped out " by his " strange " behaviour ; and an article from the Daily Telegraph , which reported Jefferies " has been described by pupils at Clifton College ... as a fan of dark and violent avant @-@ garde films " . Jefferies launched legal action against six newspapers on 21 April ? The Sun , the Daily Mirror , the Daily Star , the Daily Express , the Daily Mail and the Daily Record ? seeking damages for libel .

He was represented by Louis Charalambous of the law firm Simons Muirhead and Burton , who in 2008 had successfully acted for Robert Murat after he became a suspect during the investigation into the disappearance of Madeleine McCann and had faced similar media scrutiny . On 29 July Jefferies accepted " substantial " damages for defamation from The Sun , the Daily Mirror , the Sunday Mirror , the Daily Record , the Daily Mail , the Daily Express , the Daily Star and The Scotsman in connection with their coverage of his arrest . In an interview following Tabak 's conviction , Jefferies commented : " It has taken up a whole year virtually of my life , that period of time has meant that everything else that I would normally be doing has been in abeyance . " He criticised the government 's plans to change the law on legal aid , which he said would prevent people with limited means from taking action against newspapers .

Dominic Grieve , the Attorney General for England and Wales , stated on 31 December 2010 that he was considering action under the Contempt of Court Act 1981 to enforce the obligation of the media not to prejudice a possible future trial . Criminology professor David Wilson commented on the resonance of the murder case with the national news media : " The British public loves a whodunnit ... It 's a particularly British thing . We were the first nation to use murder stories to sell newspapers and that culture is more ingrained here than elsewhere . " Wilson called Yeates , a white female professional , an " ideal victim " for the media . On 1 January , Yeates ' boyfriend Greg Reardon commented on the media coverage surrounding the arrest of Jefferies : " Jo 's life was cut short tragically but the finger @-@ pointing and character assassination by social and news media of as yet innocent men has been shameful . "

On 12 May 2011 , the Administrative Court granted the Attorney General permission to move a motion for committal for contempt of court against The Sun and the Daily Mirror for the way they had reported the arrest of Jefferies . On 29 July , the court ( Lord Judge CJ , Thomas LJ and Owen J ) ruled that both newspapers had been in contempt of court , and fined the Daily Mirror £ 50 @,@ 000 and The Sun £ 18 @,@ 000 . The Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales , Lord Judge , stated that " in our judgment , as a matter of principle , the vilification of a suspect under arrest is a potential impediment to the course of justice . " The publishers of The Sun and the Daily Mirror subsequently appealed their fines , but the Mirror case was rejected by the Supreme Court of England and Wales on 9 March 2012 , whilst The Sun withdrew its appeal .

= = = Ramifications = = =

The Yeates case was mentioned during a Parliamentary debate on a private member 's bill that would have imposed a six @-@ month sentence on any journalist who names an uncharged suspect . The proposed legislation was introduced into the House of Commons in June 2010 , by Anna Soubry , the Conservative MP for Broxtowe , a former journalist and criminal law barrister . In a debate on 4 February 2011 Soubry told the House : " What we saw in Bristol was , in effect , a feeding frenzy and vilification . Much of the coverage was not only completely irrelevant , but there was a homophobic tone to it which I found deeply offensive . The slurs on the man were out of order . " She withdrew the proposal after encountering opposition from the Conservative @-@ led coalition government .

Jefferies gave evidence to the Leveson Inquiry , established by Prime Minister David Cameron to investigate the ethics and behaviour of the British media following the News of the World phone hacking affair . Jefferies told the inquiry that reporters had " besieged " him after he was questioned by the police ; he said : " It was clear that the tabloid press had decided that I was guilty of Miss

Yeates ' murder and seemed determined to persuade the public of my guilt . They embarked on a frenzied campaign to blacken my character by publishing a series of very serious allegations about me which were completely untrue . " Appearing before the same inquiry on 16 January 2012 , the Daily Mirror editor , Richard Wallace , described the newspaper 's coverage of Jefferies ' arrest as a " black mark " on his editing record .

= = Aftermath and memorials = =

Associate vicar Dan Clark led a memorial service for Yeates at Christ Church in Clifton on 2 January 2011 . Prayers for her were also said at the church on 17 December 2011 , the first anniversary of her death , while visitors left tributes and messages of condolence for her family . Greg Reardon started a charity website in Yeates ' memory to raise funds on behalf of families of missing people . Yeates ' friends and family planted a memorial garden at the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens in Romsey where she had worked as a student . Building Design Partnership and the local NHS trust announced plans to commemorate her with a memorial in a garden she had been designing for a new £ 430 million hospital in Southmead , Bristol .

Other plans for memorials included a garden of remembrance at the BDP firm 's studio in Bristol , a published anthology of Yeates ' work and an annual landscape design prize named after her for students of the University of Gloucestershire . BDP announced it would dedicate a charity cycle ride between its offices on its 50th anniversary , with proceeds to go to charities selected by her family . Yeates left behind an estate valued at £ 47 @, @ 000 , which included money set aside to purchase a home with Reardon . As she had not written a will , the sum was inherited by her parents .

Following the release of her body on 31 January 2011 , Yeates ' family arranged to hold her funeral at St Mark 's of Ampfield , Hampshire , and have her interred in the churchyard . Yeates was buried on 11 February ; approximately 300 people attended the service , which was led by vicar Peter Gilks .

In 2013 , ITV commissioned a drama about Jefferies ' arrest . Filming of the two @-@ part series , starring Jason Watkins in the leading role , began in November . The Bristol Post reported that Jefferies had read and approved the script , and supported the project . The drama , titled The Lost Honour of Christopher Jefferies , aired on 10 and 11 December 2014 . In May 2015 , it won two awards at the 2015 British Academy Television Awards ? best mini @-@ series for the programme itself , and best actor for Watkins ' portrayal of Jefferies . On 26 March 2015 , the case was the subject of an episode of the Channel 5 documentary series Countdown to Murder , titled The Killer Next Door : The Last Hours of Joanna Yeates .

= = Coordinates = =

The following locations were pertinent to the investigation :