

## Article A

- **Bachelor and former English teacher picked up at 7am**
- **Jo's parents say they are 'pleased' arrest has been made**
- **Forensics remove landlord's silver car from outside flat**
- **Jefferies was Head of English at public school nearby**
- **He campaigned for gun range and prayer books**

Police today seized Joanna Yeates' landlord's car after he was arrested on suspicion of her murder. The silver Chrysler was loaded up and driven away hours after Chris Jefferies, 65, was taken into custody in a dawn raid. The bachelor's arrest came hours after he claimed he had watched as three people left Jo's flat on the night she vanished.

He is now being questioned on suspicion of murdering the landscape gardener, who went missing before Christmas. A statement from Avon and Somerset police said: 'Just after 07.00hrs this morning, police attended an address in Canynge Road and arrested a 65-year-old man on suspicion of murder.'

'He has been taken into custody at a police station within the Avon and Somerset force area and detained for questioning.'

'Detectives investigating Joanna's murder are continuing to carry out forensic examinations, and are also continuing to appeal for anyone with any information that can help the enquiry to call the Operation Braid incident room on 0845 456 7000 or the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.'

Mr Jefferies, a former teacher at the nearby public school Clifton College, lives directly above the basement flat he rented to Miss Yeates. The body of the 25-year-old, who had been strangled, was found by dog walkers on Christmas morning, three miles from her £200,000 flat in the upmarket area of Clifton, Bristol.

She was last seen by friends on December 17 and was reported missing two days later by her live-in boyfriend Greg Reardon when he returned from a weekend with relatives. Yesterday, Mr Jefferies apparently told police how he saw a trio leaving Miss Yeates' flat on Friday, December 17.

Wearing a long coat with fur collar and carrying a Waterstone's shopping bag, he told reporters: 'Everything I am aware of I have told the police and I really don't want to talk about it.'

A £10,000 reward was yesterday offered to help police catch her killer and fresh CCTV was released of Miss Yeates buying cider in a branch of Bargain Booze on the last night she was seen. But police inquiries are now centring on the flat she shared with her fellow architect Mr Reardon, 27.

Forensic experts have removed bags of potential evidence and even the front door in their search to discover exactly what happened. They are also ripping up floorboards inside the flat and the rest of the house in their hunt for clues.

Towed away: A silver Chrysler belonging to Chris Jefferies is removed from outside the flats today

Seized: Road maps inside the Chrysler which was taken away by police

Miss Yeates's parents said they were pleased that an arrest had been made. Mr Yeates told the Southern Daily Echo: 'At the end of the day, obviously I'm not happy because my daughter is still dead. But we are pleased the police have made an arrest as they have been working very hard to make progress in this case. 'During the investigation police have not told us everything they have discovered but we understand there are certain things they cannot reveal.'

Mr Jefferies taught at Clifton College from the early 1970s and rose to become head of England before taking early retirement. Current head Mark Moore said today: 'I can confirm that Mr Jefferies taught English at Clifton College for a number of years. 'He retired in 2001 which is nearly 10 years ago now and I have been headmaster here for six years and I certainly never met Mr Jefferies. 'There will be very few people on the teaching staff and pupils who would have ever met Mr Jefferies.'

It is a number of years ago and although he lived locally he'd had no formal contact with the college since he retired.'

Search: Forensic officers dressed in protective suits going inside the building in Clifton today

Brown paper bags of evidence from Joanna's flat are taken back to the police lorry yesterday

Clifton College headteacher Mark Moore today. He confirmed Chris Jefferies worked there for years. Mr Moore said there were no records of disciplinary proceedings against the former member of staff. 'There was nothing in his record at all and he took early retirement, which he is perfectly entitled to do,' he said. 'When a new head of English came into the school he decided to bow out at that point.'

An only child who has never married, Mr Jefferies - originally from Grimsby - was considered one of the 'luminaries' of Clifton College's English department in the 1970s. He was particularly fond of the work of the 19th-century romantic poet Christina Rossetti. A former pupil, James Harris, wrote on a social networking site: 'Jo Yeates's landlord was my English teacher at school 20 years ago. He was very flamboyant and had blue hair at the time.' Mr Jefferies, a 65-year-old bachelor, was arrested on Thursday morning.

Retired English teacher Mr Jefferies entering his flat earlier this week

Clifton College, where Chris Jefferies was Head of English until his retirement in 2001

Mr Jefferies was four years ago appointed the chairman of the Bath and Avon Prayer Book Society, which promotes the continued use of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. He resigned four months later. A year earlier, he set up a campaign group to fight plans to replace a rifle range and squash courts belonging to his former college with two semi-detached houses.

Ray Lowman, who lives in a flat opposite the mansion, knew Mr Jefferies through the Neighbourhood Watch and said he was 'amazed'. 'He is basically a pillar of society. One of the well-known familiar locals,' he said. He acknowledged the former teacher's appearance was odd but added: 'I wouldn't say he was weird but unusual and the hair is affectation. A very intelligent man, very sharp.' Resident Tony Buss, 51, described the landlord's arrest as a 'shock and surprise'.

Another neighbour, who did not want to be named, said: 'It's all been pretty scary, especially for my girlfriend as I'm away most of the week so it's been pretty scary for her to be home alone. We chose the area of Clifton to live in because we thought it was safe.' Referring to Mr Jefferies, he said: 'We see him all the time on the road. He's a bit of a nutty professor-type by the looks of it.'