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YORK  
ST JOHN  
UNIVERSITY

Alumni Magazine  
2022/2023

1841



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## Vice Chancellor's introduction

It is a pleasure to be writing to our alumni community after another busy year. As Vice Chancellor, I am very proud to be sharing our developments at York St John University with you.

The last time I wrote, we were still navigating the challenging circumstances of the pandemic. I hope that as restrictions have eased you have stayed well, and have been able to resume the things you enjoy.

In September we were particularly pleased to welcome our students back to campus. As they returned to a full university experience, I was once again reminded of the transformational power of education and its ability to help nurture our students to realise their full potential. In November and February, we celebrated the success of our class of 2020 and class of 2021 as they crossed the Minster stage to become graduates of York St John University, an experience I am sure many of you will remember fondly.



Our February graduation ceremonies marked an important milestone for York St John University as the first graduating cohort of students from our London campus received their degrees. Our London venture has continued to go from strength to strength, helping us to bridge the north-south skills divide through our portfolio of master's courses, degree apprenticeships and more joint working across York and London. Our London campus is currently relocating to new premises at East India Dock to accommodate over 1,000 students joining us from across the world.

This academic year has also seen our students and staff able to engage with our local community in person again. We have welcomed school children to our new Creative Centre to perform in our 170 seat auditorium working with students from our School of the Arts. This provided a real 'theatre experience' that the young people thoroughly enjoyed. Our Student Recruitment and Widening Participation Team have also been busy delivering outreach activities, working in collaboration with schools and colleges across the region. We know that gaps in children's achievement can appear as early as primary school and can have long term effects on their performance in higher education and prospects later in life.

Addressing these gaps, as early as possible, means that we can raise aspirations and ensure that student populations are diverse, representative of society, and as a result drive social mobility across the nation.

At York St John we are proud to have a diverse learning community with over

# 80%

of our students joining us from groups who are underrepresented in higher education.

We know that students are no less likely to achieve great learning outcomes based on their background, in fact they go on to represent their communities, challenge inequalities and add diversity to the workforce.

We are also continuing to work closely with the business community. Over the past couple of years, we have strengthened our role as a talent pipeline for key public services including our Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship in partnership with Humberside Police, and nursing and paramedic science courses. Our Business Support team are

helping businesses to upskill their workforces for the future through high quality degree apprenticeships and continued professional development masterclasses.

In May 2022, we launched our Enterprise Centre, a new business start up and incubation facility to support local independent enterprise in partnership with the York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub. Based on our Lord Mayor's walk campus, the centre enables local small and medium enterprises to access training, mentoring and coaching to develop their businesses.

Working in partnership with employers, we have refreshed our graduate attributes to ensure that we are embedding key skills including creativity, resilience and digital literacy directly into our curriculum. This ensures that our students are ready to face the everchanging world of work and to meet skills gaps in the region. Tailored placement and internships are also crucial to building confidence and connecting students with employers' pre graduation.

For many students, it is important to work with organisations that align with their values. They are passionate about tackling the challenges faced by society, including social justice and the climate crisis.

Our Institute of Social Justice facilitates social justice research, projects and partnerships that help students and staff to pursue and promote a fairer society. Recent projects have included our Living Lab, an interdisciplinary network bringing together over 250 students with our academics and the City of York Council to tackle air pollution in the City of York. More globally, colleagues have worked with aquaculture farmers in Kenya to build resilience against climate change by providing access to training, best practices and knowledge sharing information.

It is clear that universities have a key role to play in improving peoples' lives both locally and on a more global scale. At York St John, this is only possible because of our whole community approach. This is the way in which our students, colleagues, alumni and partner organisations come together to support education for all, advancing knowledge and tackling social inequalities.

There are lots of opportunities to connect with us and be a part of this important work. Your experience and knowledge as an alumnus of York St John is really valuable, and we welcome the chance to learn more about your journey. We will be running a full programme of events over the next twelve months and I would be delighted to welcome you to our York and London campuses. I hope you enjoy this latest edition of our alumni magazine.

Kind regards

**Professor Karen Bryan** | Vice Chancellor



## Introducing the alumni team

We have all faced many changes in the last year, and that does not exclude the Alumni and Fundraising team. We have said goodbye to two members of our team, as they go onto new adventures, and welcomed two new people. With the structural changes, we thought it would only be appropriate to reintroduce ourselves so you can get to know us.

Let's start with Louise, who is our Alumni Partnership Manager. Louise has been with York St John University since 2004 and has watched the University grow and adapt into what it is today. Some of Louise's key responsibilities include ensuring the alumni strategy is on target, building and developing long lasting relationships with alumni, and generating opportunities for past and present students. Louise oversees our team and supports them with their projects. In her spare time, she enjoys going to the theatre.

Jess is our Alumni Communications and Projects Officer. Her key responsibilities are producing all of the social media, blog, email and print communications. Jess is also responsible for increasing general engagement, replying to social media comments, and is currently working on a long term legacy project. Graduating with a degree in Creative Writing and English Literature from York St John in 2020, Jess enjoys reading historical fiction and exploring castles in her free time.

Susanna is the team's Support Coordinator and spends her time split between the Alumni and Communications teams. Susanna has worked at York St John for over five years and has undertaken projects such as editing the alumni magazine and curating the heritage trail. Outside of work, she enjoys playing tennis and never gets bored of walking the City Walls.

Amy is our Alumni Relations Coordinator and is the first point of contact for all alumni enquiries. Her key responsibilities are managing and maintaining the alumni and fundraising database, answering queries, building relationships, and assisting other members of the team with projects. Amy is an alum of York St John and in her spare time, she can be found in coffee shops or the library working on her PhD in English Literature.

Sally is our Fundraising Projects Officer. Her key responsibilities include developing prospective donor relationships, working with other departments to name fundraising opportunities, supporting events alongside the Alumni Partnership Manager, and working on projects alongside Amy and Jess. In her spare time, Sally enjoys running and is a big musical fan.

With the introductions out of the way, we would love to hear from you! Remember you can always get in touch with us at [alumni@yorks.j.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@yorks.j.ac.uk) or on **01904 876741**.

Amy Jess Louise Susanna Sally

# Your alumni reunion 2023

It's been a while since we've been able to welcome our alumni back to campus officially. We have missed seeing past students wander around the quad or take in the changing landscape our campus has undergone in recent years. After an unusual couple of years of campus being quiet, we are ready to see it return to its vibrant self.

As the university has now fully reopened for our students to return to campus, we now want to welcome back our alumni community! On Saturday 22 July 2023, we will be holding a reunion on our York campus open to all our alumni, whether you graduated in 1952 or 2022.

London, Ripon, and York alumni are all welcome to join the reunion and celebrate being members of an ever growing alumni community. This will be an all day event, with the opportunity for you to tailor your reunion to suit you. The day will include:

- BBQ lunch
- Campus tours
- Evening meal with entertainment and quiz
- Opportunity to support students

You'll have the opportunity to recreate some of your much loved photographs from your student days across campus, socialise with friends in the newly built Creative Centre, or wander around York and take in the city. Whether you want a structured day or a more relaxed approach, our reunion caters for everyone.

This will be a ticketed event and a portion of the ticket sales will go towards fundraising for our scholarships. There will also be opportunities throughout the day to contribute to our scholarship funds and help the graduates of the future achieve their dreams. With the rising cost in living, our alumni scholarship fund is more important than ever to aid our students in reaching their full potential in their studies. You can find out more about our scholarships on page 8.

The reunion may not be until next year, but it's never too early to plan ahead and gather your friends together in York. It is a great opportunity to meet up with people you have not seen in years and also an opportunity to meet people from all corners of our alumni community! We hope to see as many returning graduates as possible next year!

Are you interested in attending the reunion?

Register your interest for our Saturday 22 July reunion.



# A green university

York St John University has always looked ahead, following the shining example of our founder colleges in creating space for the next generation of students to thrive. Today, the ethos of creating a space fit for purpose has only grown stronger, leading to our green initiatives to help preserve our planet and environment for years to come.

## Our campus buildings

Since 2005, York St John has been committed to improving its sustainability and making the whole campus more eco friendly. Our newest building, the Creative Centre, has been created with sustainability at its heart. This includes triple glazing, natural ventilation technology and specialist building materials to ensure a durable but sustainable structure for our students to enjoy for years to come.

But it's not just new buildings which have seen improvement. In 2005, we promised to reduce our emissions by 80% by 2030. Our ongoing decarbonisation project is just one example of how we are working towards this goal. As part of this project, we have installed solar panels across our campus rooves and installed specialist heating technology. We also install triple glazing when we refurbish existing campus buildings to help make them more energy efficient.

These improvements will help us save a projected 640, 000KWh a year and reduce our annual carbon dioxide emissions by

# 82 TONNES



## Tremendous planting

It's not just technology that's helping make our campus greener! Did you know we've planted over 1000 trees around our campuses in recent years? This includes over 300 saplings that have recently been planted at our Haxby Road Sports Campus, the special jubilee tree planted in 2022 by the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire to commemorate the Queen's jubilee, and many more!

But it's not just trees that have been planted recently. To encourage the growth of the local Tansy Beetle population, York St John has committed to supporting their habitat by planting tansy plants in locations across our sites. The community allotments at our Haxby Road site and the proposed wildflower meadow near our Creative Centre will also continue to help create habitats for local wildlife to thrive.

## Waste not, want not

It's not just the start of the process that we're making greener, but the end of the process too. Universities produce a lot of waste but since 2016, we haven't sent any to landfill! Instead, any green waste produced on campus is composted, and any other waste is recycled. If our waste can't be composted or recycled, we use it to generate energy instead. This shows both our commitment to creating a greener campus, but also to preserving our environment for future generations to enjoy.

Alongside our commitment to responsible waste management, we also use our resources responsibly. Most of our university vehicles are now electric to further reduce our environmental impact and we've created solar carports to maximise our solar energy potential.



## Hedgehogs welcome

Alongside our efforts to diversify our plant life, we have also become a home to numerous types of wildlife. Dotted amongst the students and classrooms, you can find birdboxes, bug hotels, hedgehog habitats and other wildlife habitats scattered around our campus. These habitats have been installed to lower our impact on local wildlife and to promote wildlife growth within our community. Our campuses are also home to a wildlife pond, beehives and an apple orchard to support other types of wildlife.

We're particularly proud of the YSJ hedgehogs who live on site in our hedgehog habitats. In February 2022, we were awarded a silver accreditation by the Hedgehog Friendly Campus Scheme. This accreditation recognises all our hard work, including undertaking hedgehog surveys, creating suitable habitats, planting hedgehog friendly wildflowers and raising awareness of our hedgehogs on campus. This accreditation also recognises the work done by the Students' Union, including their Green Week webinar and litter picking to promote helping hedgehogs. We can't wait to continue this work to maintain our hedgehog habitats and progress towards a gold accreditation!

This will help us to meet the

# 80%

Emission reduction we promised by 2030 after 25 years of hard work, planning and installation.

## Your alumni magazine

This year we've also made a few changes. This alumni magazine is made from recycled paper and itself is entirely recyclable. Even the postage materials are recyclable, and we made sure to check our data so we're only posting the magazine to those with valid addresses!

We're excited to do our bit for the environment by making our annual publication as environmentally friendly as possible.

# We need your help

Last year, we received 77 applications for our alumni-funded scholarships. That's 77 students who met our scholarship criteria and needed financial support to improve their time at York St John University. This support could help them buy much needed equipment, pay for their commutes so they can continue their caring responsibilities, or even help recently bereaved students finance their education.

Thanks to your continued support, we were able to support 12 students last year, committing £25,000 for this scholarship cycle. That equates to:



During the scholarship process, our specialist scholarship committee was so moved by two of the applications, that they decided to commit a further £1000 to immediately support two students in desperate need of help.

## The numbers don't lie

Last year, we analysed our scholarship data. This included how many applicants we'd had for our funding, how many scholarships we'd granted, and the student outcomes for both groups.

Unsuccessful scholarship applicants are 60% more likely to withdraw or terminate their studies compared to our successful applicants.

Last year, our data showed that we received

# 250%

more applications than in 2018.

This has meant that despite our best efforts, in the past 2 years, we've had to reject 85% of applicants due to a lack of funding.

This data speaks for itself. Every year we receive more applications than the year before, but we can only support a small number of students. Every year we know that our unsuccessful applicants are more likely to leave their studies than our successful applicants.

## We need your help

Every year we send this magazine to over 20,000 alumni. If even half of you were to donate £10 today, we'd raise £100,000 to support more students moving forward.

If even half of you donated just

# £2.00

we'd be able to support 7 students for 3 years.



We know the cost of living has impacted our alumni community. Money isn't stretching as far as it used to. But for the many students who receive a student loan (with a high interest rate) which doesn't even cover their rent, studying at university can suddenly become impossible.

If you are able, please help us support more students by donating today, or setting up a monthly donation to our scholarship fund. No matter the size or frequency of your donation, 100% of it will fund a student in dire need of financial support. You can donate online via JustGiving, by setting up a standing order, or by cheque.

Donate today:  
[justgiving.com/yorksj](https://justgiving.com/yorksj)



## 'L' was a second year History student when they applied for the scholarship in 2020.

Receiving the scholarship will really help with the remainder of my studies. As a history student I rely on a variety of different books to enhance my studies and the funds awarded will be put towards buying some books for my dissertation research, which can be costly. Furthermore, since I will receive the scholarship in my third year, it will also greatly help with the cost of my private accommodation in York. Regarding my personal circumstances, I am really grateful for the scholarship because it allows me to not be as worried about my finances on top of being a carer of my mum. Since she is terminally ill there is a considerable amount of worry associated with this, but the scholarship relieved me of some worry.

## 'A' was a first year Law student when they applied for the scholarship in 2020.

By receiving this scholarship my financial burden will have been greatly eased. Not having family to rely on often means that money is more stressful and much more of a priority, often over assignments. The extra money will allow me to be able to prioritise my workload over earning money much more often and even give me the chance to go out and spend money with friends, not just on bills. Whilst this is not important to some, living in a new city with no friends or family can often be isolating; having a spare £10 to go for a coffee with someone new is a huge thing for me and will allow me to set down new roots and enjoy my university degree with much less stress.



## STANDING ORDER FORM

To set up a standing order to donate to our scholarships fund, please complete this form and return it to your bank or building society. You will be able to stop your donations at any time by contacting your bank or building society.

If you decide to donate to us, please email [alumni@yorksj.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@yorksj.ac.uk) so we can thank you for your generosity.

Bank ..... Branch .....

Address .....

Please pay: Barclays Bank plc, York Branch: Sort Code 20-99-15 for credit to the account of York St John University account no. 70936324

the sum of £..... to commence on ..... (date of first payment) and thereafter every month / quarter / year (delete as appropriate) up to and including ..... (date) or until this order is cancelled in writing.

Please debit the account of ..... (name) Account no .....

Sort code .....

Please quote reference: Alumni Donation [your Full name]

Name ..... Signature .....

Date .....

# Planet changing research at York St John University

Students and lecturers at York St John University are currently researching some of the biggest challenges facing society today. This includes investigating critical global issues and raising awareness of environmental concerns both locally in York and across the globe.

## YSJ Ecological Justice Research Group (EJRG)

Last Summer, York St John formed the Ecological Justice Research Group (EJRG). Ecological justice is the recognition that social justice and environmental issues are tightly intertwined. The most vulnerable in society suffer the first and worst consequences of climate change and environmental degradation. Therefore, the solutions too need to be intertwined, learning from multiple disciplines, cultures, and forms of knowledge. This is why the research group includes all five of the University's academic schools and two professional services teams to ensure a multidisciplinary approach to our ongoing research.

## Kenya, Olalekan Adekola, Senior Lecturer in Geography, York St John University

York St John is working with aquaculture farmers in Kenya to help them build resilience against climate change. By establishing the Climate Resilient Aquaculture in Kenya group, the university is helping to provide information on training, best practices and knowledge sharing. So far, 60% of aquaculture farmers have indicated that the knowledge and information have helped them to better adapt to the impacts of climate change on their fish farm.

## Living Lab: learning at the junction

This project is funded by the University's Institute for Social Justice and led by the EJRG. The focus is air pollution, specifically at the busy and often polluted junction between Gillygate and Lord Mayor's Walk, on the University's own boundary. 250 students from nine different academic subjects have worked collaboratively with their wider community and peers from other disciplines to examine the challenges involved in improving air quality.

In May 2022 the Living Lab Street Festival was held, where findings from the range of subjects were explored in a series of stalls and performances. Our drama and music students performed impactful self written compositions and spoken word pieces. The students from linguistics, biomedical sciences and geography hosted informative stalls to raise awareness of the issues caused by pollution. Our graphic design students exhibited striking posters, zines, stickers and site specific installations all raising public awareness of the issues. It was a truly collaborative event enabling new perspectives and innovative ideas to be discussed.



**Dr Vicki Pugh, research assistant at York St John University, said:**

A major aim of the project was to encourage cross disciplinary learning experiences between students, to bring new perspectives and conversations to the table.

It was inspiring to see this collaboration in action, such as performances between music and drama students, and in the scientific understanding which biomedical sciences students shared with arts students to inform their work.



# Your alumni benefits

As an alum of York St John University or one of our founder colleges, you're entitled to a range of alumni benefits. In the past year, we've launched our alumni business directory to give you access to fantastic deals at alumni businesses, celebrated alumni careers through our 2021/2022 webinar series, and welcomed our latest graduates with custom pin badges.

## Alumni business directory

Launched last autumn, our alumni business directory is simple. As an alum of York St John, you can access a range of discounts and offers from alumni businesses across a range of industries. From custom art prints to talking therapies and yoga, our alumni business owners benefit from more customers, and our alumni community supports alumni business.

If you would like to add your business to our directory, please email [alumni@yorks.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@yorks.ac.uk).

## Lifelong career support

No matter when you completed your course with us, you can access career support from our fantastic Careers team. This includes the ability to search our jobs board, recruit our graduates by posting a job with us, and talking to a trained career advisor. Whether you're thinking about your next career move, considering swapping industries, or just want some advice, our Careers team are here to help.

To access your lifelong career support, please email [careers@yorks.ac.uk](mailto:careers@yorks.ac.uk).

## York based discounts

You can also access discounts at the following local businesses:

- **York Gin**
- **York Cocoa House**
- **Middlethorpe Hall and Spa**
- **Hospital and Medical Care Association**

To find out more about these discounts, please visit our alumni benefits webpage.

## Return to campus

As one of our alumni, you can access the following campus based discounts:

- **Free library membership to physical collections**
- **Discounted room bookings at our York campus**
- **Discounted gym membership**
- **At least 10% off most postgraduate courses, no matter when you graduated**

## Upcoming webinars

Last academic year we spoke to some of our fantastic alumni about their careers. We learnt about careers in a variety of industries, including elite sport and comedy! If you missed a webinar, you can rewatch them on YouTube.

This academic year, we're excited to talk to even more alumni about their career journeys. We'll be announcing further information about our upcoming webinars on social media, and in our monthly newsletters. We can't wait to share more alumni journeys with you!

## Ripon newsletter

In June we launched our new quarterly Ripon newsletter for our alumni who attended Ripon College or studied at Ripon campus. Including throwbacks, information about current events in Ripon and much more, we can't wait to reconnect with our Ripon alumni!

If you think you should be getting this newsletter but didn't receive it yet, please let us know. If you know someone else who might be interested in our newsletter, please ask them to email us their details. Our email address is [alumni@yorks.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@yorks.ac.uk).

To view our full list of alumni benefits and how to access them, please see our website: [yorks.ac.uk/alumni/benefits-and-services](https://yorks.ac.uk/alumni/benefits-and-services)



# A PhD pathway: a look at graduate teaching assistants

In 2015, York St John University was granted the ability to award research degrees. Since then our students have researched a wide variety of topics to advance knowledge in their fields. But, completing a PhD isn't a straightforward journey, with each student taking their own path to achieve their goals.

The Graduate Teaching Assistant (now Academic Associates) pathway is one way that our PhD students can earn whilst they learn, as they undertake a variety of academic duties alongside their own research work. This pathway often also has other financial benefits, including some partly or fully funded fee opportunities with various Academic at York St John.

In 2022, the first of our GTAs (Graduate Teaching Assistants) will graduate after completing their vivas. This marks an important milestone in our university and highlights the fantastic research output by our postgraduate research community. It also illustrates how close our students are to important and impactful research as some undergraduate students are partially taught by PhD students.

To mark this fantastic achievement, we spoke to Marianne, one of the GTA's due to complete her PhD this year once she's completed her viva.

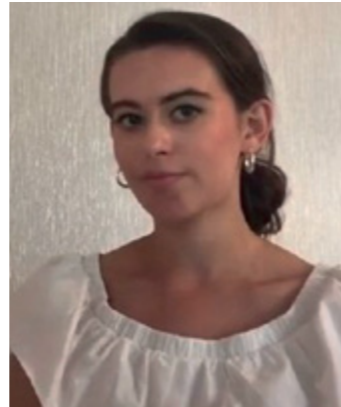


I was lucky to have the opportunity to complete my PhD supervised by them.



## Introducing Marianne

Originally from Torquay, Marianne decided to undertake a PhD whilst completing a Master of Research Degree at the University of Bath. Having specialised in perfectionism, Marianne realised that she not only loved researching in this field, but that her work could have a real impact if she progressed to PhD level. After looking at her options, Marianne applied for and was accepted onto our Graduate Teaching Assistant pathway for completing her PhD.



## Picking a research specialism

Marianne chose York St John University for many reasons, including the fact that some of the leading researchers in her research area work here!

Marianne's PhD investigates why perfectionism, a personality trait characterised by setting irrational standards and being overly self critical, leads to symptoms of depression and suicide ideation. Specifically, Marianne investigated whether these depressive symptoms and suicide ideation stem from feelings of not mattering to others, or because of a difficulty in accepting the past due to perfectionism. Her interest in this topic stemmed from her own mental health experiences, and her wish to better understand why perfectionists may suffer from mental health problems.

The aim of Marianne's research is to better understand why perfectionism leads to mental health problems with the hope that it will inform future work in this field, especially within university settings. Whilst Marianne's research is itself a substantial body of work, effective intervention in this field is still a long way off. Marianne's work is an important steppingstone in advancing our understanding of perfectionism and how it can lead to depression and suicide ideation.

## Graduate Teaching Assistant

Working as a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) for four years whilst completing her PhD provided Marianne with various opportunities. As part of this role, Marianne attended departmental meetings, worked with staff members, and prepared and delivered student seminars. Alongside her own workload, Marianne would also mark student exams and assessments as part of her responsibilities.

Although Marianne chose this PhD pathway for its funding options, it was an experience that she would recommend to any prospective PhD students.

Although teaching wasn't something Marianne wanted to pursue as a career, this pathway proves vital if in future her career plans change to include lecturing. Moreover, the confidence that teaching has given her, alongside the opportunity to interact with students and develop other skills, like communication, multi-tasking and strict time management, have stood her in good stead as she looked for her first post PhD role.



Being a GTA pushed me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to develop in confidence. I also had the pleasure of having taught some great students and enjoyed interacting with them.



## Research degrees at York St John

At York St John, we have a range of research degrees available, including Masters by Research and PhD programmes. Did you know that as one of our alumni, you'll receive a fee discount?

You can find out more about our postgraduate research degrees on our website, including how to apply and when our next postgraduate open evening is.



[yorks.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/research](https://yorks.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/research)



I'm aware that my research focusing on mental health really has the potential to help others, and this will drive me in my career.



## From York to Glasgow

In January, Marianne started work as a research assistant at the University of Glasgow where she is involved in several different projects, including those focused on suicide prevention. She is also part of an academic advisory group within the National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group. Although Marianne is now working with one of the leading researchers in suicide prevention, her work speaks for itself in terms of impact. She hopes that her work will help to advance knowledge and understanding to aid suicide prevention. She also wants to educate others on the link between perfectionism and suicide which she began researching in depth during her PhD.

Currently Marianne is spending a lot of time working on a project which collaborates with other universities. This grant funded project is focused on adolescent mental health in a digital world, an important and pressing subject that will have real time implications.

## Learn more about Marianne's research

You can find out more about Marianne and read some of her work in the following places:



[twitter.com/MazEtherson](https://twitter.com/MazEtherson)



[psychologytoday.com/gb/contributors/marianne-e-etherson](https://psychologytoday.com/gb/contributors/marianne-e-etherson)



[researchgate.net/profile/Marianne-Etherson](https://researchgate.net/profile/Marianne-Etherson)

# Remembering 70 years: a 1952 snapshot

On 8 September 2022, after 70 years of service, the news broke that Queen Elizabeth II had passed away. After a summer celebrating her Platinum Jubilee, many reflected on the changes that she had seen throughout her long reign. In the coming months as we reflect on her life and legacy, we thought we'd look back at what York St John University was like at the very start of her reign in 1952.

## Two cities, two colleges

In 1952, York St John as we know it didn't exist. Ripon College and St John's College were entirely separate but had similar goals and a shared past. The colleges also shared social events and sang together in a collaborative choir.

But both colleges shared the same worry: how would they be financially affected by falling student numbers? Teachers were in demand thanks to the post war baby boom, but in 1952, applications were falling.

Did you know that in 1952, some key goods were still rationed, including tea and sugar? Although students lived in catered accommodation, they would still have felt the pinch. On the other side of the spectrum, any student lucky enough to have their own TV set in 1952 also learnt to be wary. The first ever TV detector van, which checked for those who hadn't bought a license, took to the roads outside unsuspecting student houses!



## A St John's College snapshot

In 1952, Philip Lamb was the established principal of St John's College and had just overseen a major project: enlarging the lecture theatre. For many years, student numbers had meant there wasn't an indoor space big enough for everyone to sit together, so this building project was an important step for improving the college.

Lamb also oversaw the creation of a new library, which opened in 1953 to support their current student quotas. The state of the art library was soon made redundant, due to its size, as later educational changes expanded student numbers.

## A Ripon College snapshot

In 1952, Valentine Hall was Ripon College's ambitious, and recent, principal. Unlike Lamb, Hall could buy property bordering the college to convert into accommodation and teaching space. In 1952, Highfield House alongside the Jervaulx and Byland corridors were renovated into new, modern accommodation.



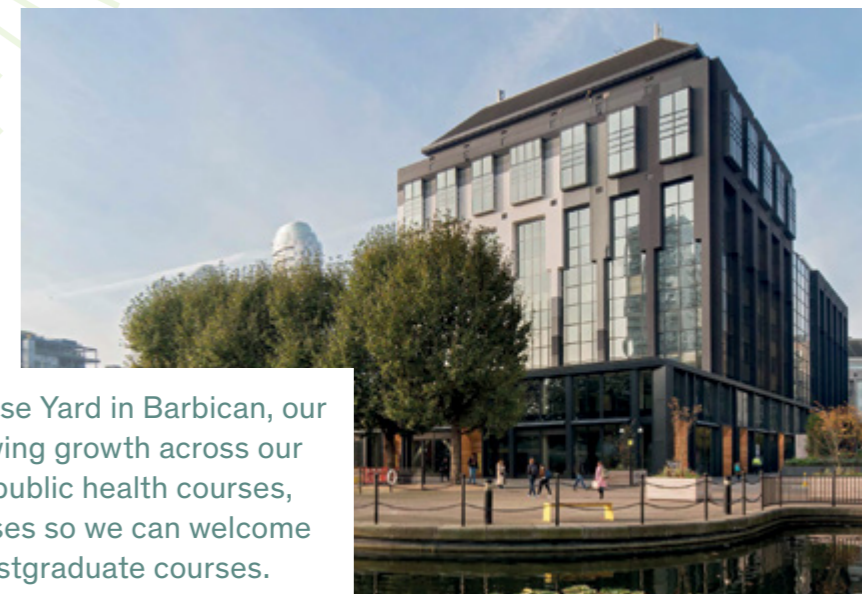
Alongside its fantastic reputation, Ripon College's new study bedrooms, new decorations and modern socialising space soon attracted plenty of new students. For the 80 students who were part of Beekeeping Society, college life was also an award winning and tasty experience thanks to the bees they nurtured!

## A different world?

Since 1952, a lot has changed. Students certainly don't have to ration their tea and sugar anymore, but that doesn't mean students don't still feel a financial pinch during their studies. Our two founding colleges have long since merged, with new building work completed and the Ripon campus closed. We've gained university status in our own right with the power to grant both undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications. We've even opened another campus in London!

But beneath it all, we're still the same. Students still fear paying their TV license, enjoy their time living with friends and have a thriving social life. Just as Lamb and Hall faced a new era in 1952 with a new Queen, we enter a new era with King Charles III. Although we changed considerably during Queen Elizabeth's reign, like our predecessors in 1952, we are always looking at ways to improve and expand our university experience. We might have changed a lot since 1952, but our values remain the same, and as we look ahead, we're excited to see what the future brings our university.

# A new London location



After 5 years located at Glasshouse Yard in Barbican, our London campus is moving! Following growth across our business, computer science and public health courses, we are relocating to larger premises so we can welcome more students to our range of postgraduate courses.

## The new campus

At the start of June, our London campus moved into the Export and Import buildings at East India Dock. Owned by Republic London, our new location will provide York St John University with 25,000 square feet of purpose built teaching space in a thriving area of London.

Our new campus is located next to East India DLR (Docklands Light Railway station) and is part of a vibrant area providing access to a range of spaces. Our university community will now be a short distance from shops, cafes, gyms, restaurants and outdoor social areas. There is also a nearby nursery, which alongside the easy rail access, makes our new location attractive to a new, and wider range of students.

Our new campus also has great views, since it's spread across the 6th floor of the Export building and half a floor of the Import building. Being so close to Canary Wharf also makes our new campus an attractive place to study a MBA or a Business Management postgraduate degree.

## Our new campus includes:

- 60 and 70 seat lecture rooms to increase our capacity
- A range of study areas, including tutorial and meeting rooms
- A reference library and quiet study spaces
- Social spaces, including a dining area and event space
- A Students' Union Office, welfare room and multi faith prayer room
- Career and business enterprise zone



For more information,  
please see our London webpages.  
[yorks.ac.uk/london-campus](http://yorks.ac.uk/london-campus)



## A fantastic range of courses

Our London campus is a fantastic place to study for a postgraduate degree. In London, you can study courses relating to healthcare management, business management, and computer and data science. We also offer MBA courses to further your career.

As one of our alumni, you can still receive your alumni fee discount on eligible postgraduate courses offered at our London campus.





# Spotlight on success: Eleanor Tomlinson



Raised in Yorkshire, Eleanor Tomlinson's business started early. After successfully winning a local Christmas card competition at primary school, Eleanor began to produce and sell her own cards. Since then, Eleanor's business has only grown and now includes a varied collection of illustrations inspired by Yorkshire, the British countryside and local wildlife. Available on a range of items, from tea towels to greeting cards, Eleanor's made sure to cater to a wide market.

## A university experience

Eleanor actually chose York St John University twice! Firstly, as her backup choice when applying for university, and again when she decided to transfer from her original university choice at the end of her first year.

Although Eleanor had been running her business on the side for many years, it wasn't until she started university that she realised that running her own business was the way to go. After beginning a course at another university that didn't suit her needs, both in terms of her Special Educational Needs and her desire to work for herself, Eleanor realised that moving to her second choice, York St John, was the best decision for her.

“Analyse and be confident enough in your abilities to make decisions of what advice to take with you, and what to leave behind you.”

After starting at York St John in her second year, Eleanor soon found herself in a welcoming, helpful and supportive environment. Eleanor's lecturers supported her business ambitions by tailoring aspects of her Illustration modules, including making sure her work module was fit for purpose for her business.

One of her favourite memories from her time at York St John was the Degree Show. This final year exhibition celebrates the work of all final year Art students by exhibiting it all together. Despite the stress of planning and mounting a full exhibition of her work, Eleanor remembers it as “the best way to end a degree”. As part of her exhibit, she created three new designs which could be used across a variety of mediums, including ceramics and fabrics. She then exhibited these in a specially made 'home setting' to showcase her work to friends, family and potential customers to enjoy.

The weeks of stress and planning did ultimately pay off. Not only did Eleanor launch her designs at her first trade show in Harrogate, she was also commissioned as one of the illustrators on a large Arts Council funded project which raised Dementia awareness across the country.

## Eleanor Tomlinson Art Ltd

After completing her degree, Eleanor did exactly as she planned: she became a full time businesswoman. Working under her own name as a traditional artist and illustrator, Eleanor works mostly in inks and watercolour, creating her own design collections, completing commissions for both private and commercial clients, and has even sent pieces around the world!

As part of her collection, Eleanor's designs feature on stationery, homeware, limited edition prints, original pieces and, recently, on fabrics. Eleanor's bespoke work is so varied that for her, no two days are the same. From beautifully bespoke wedding stationery to working with leading Yorkshire hotels on commercial items, Eleanor enjoys the creative freedom she has by running her own business.

But it's not all work and no play! Eleanor is enthusiastic about the many benefits she has found from running her own business, not least her creative ability to choose her own work.



There have been countless gains from running my own business, both tangible and intangible. But the confidence and the creative freedom I think must be my top two.



Eleanor has also recently bought her own home thanks to her business, an amazing achievement for a business owner just a few years out of university. This has allowed her to increase her work capacity and further inspired new additions to her product range, including new weekly planners which have proved a hit with customers.

## Friend of Joules

Eleanor doesn't just run her own business; she also distributes her collections through other retailers. From small, local businesses, to bigger retailers, Eleanor has already made fantastic industry connections. One of those connections was made during her time at York St John when she attended a large Christmas Fair with her work. Having accessed funding from our Careers team to attend, this was a crucial step for Eleanor's business, as her work was spotted by high street brand Joules.

After seeing her work near Christmas, Eleanor was then invited to become a 'Friend of Joules' in early 2019 before its September launch. This small marketplace of friends brings Joules' customers a wider, more diverse range of products. Although 'Friend of Joules' was launched just before the beginning of the pandemic, it has still helped Eleanor's business expand despite an otherwise difficult trading period.

Earlier this year, Eleanor was lucky enough to be chosen to take part in some of Joules' in person events, including the Badminton Horse Trails in early May. As one of only five 'friends' invited to exhibit in the official Joules marquee, it's clear that Eleanor's fantastic products have made a positive impact. Eleanor was also asked to share space with Joules founder Tom Joule when she was asked to lead live drawing and painting demonstrations, a huge achievement!

## Businesswoman of the year

The Yorkshire Choice Awards are an important and prestigious local award for businesses. In 2020, Eleanor was nominated for the Businesswoman of the year award. Although the pandemic severely delayed the award show, just being nominated for the award is a sign of the exciting future ahead for Eleanor!

Looking ahead, Eleanor has not been put off by the problems caused by the pandemic. Despite having to move much of her business online in line with government guidance, her business has continued to thrive. In 2022 she has accepted many new commissions, worked alongside some new fantastic brands and created a charity card whose proceeds have gone to the Ukrainian aid effort.

## Jubilee fame

But it's not just Eleanor's products which have been enjoyed by growing audiences. During the June Jubilee celebrations, Eleanor quickly illustrated something to capture the moment: The Queen walking hand in hand with Paddington Bear, trailed by a bunting dragging corgi. What was originally a quick illustration for social media soon spiralled as customers asked to buy her design. Soon, Eleanor had not only agreed to do a limited, signed print run, but had already sold all of them! Her original design also quickly went viral for its ability to perfectly capture a moment in time.



We can't wait to see how Eleanor's career progresses in the next few years. From her earliest Christmas cards to her latest designs, Eleanor's creativity and talent continues to grow and shine.

You can learn more about Eleanor, her products, and her commissions on her website. You can also follow her on Instagram for regular updates on her work.

Instagram: [eleanortomlinsonart](#)  
Email: [eleanortomlinsonart.co.uk](mailto:eleanortomlinsonart.co.uk)



# A closer look at our Creative Centre

It's been several years since we first mentioned the construction of our new Creative Centre to you. In 2019, our old accommodation blocks and other buildings were demolished to make way for our fantastic new building. Along the way, construction was affected by the pandemic but finally, last September, the doors were thrown open for students to enjoy the new 3000m<sup>2</sup> of new, flexible learning space.

## An ongoing story

Since opening for students, work continued to ensure a high standard across the entire Creative Centre. Chairs, tables, cushions and plants have been added to improve the usability of the atrium space and make it a fantastic space for students to enjoy. With views across our grounds and over to York Minster, students can be inspired by their surroundings as they socialise, wait for seminars to start or complete work.

Inside the classroom, the Creative Centre is the new home for our music and computer science courses. There are also specialist spaces for theatre, drama, creative writing and media production students. This means that our new Creative Centre has a range of specialist spaces, including:

## Computer science facilities

# 170 seat theatre

Specially designed critical listening room for music students

# CREATIVE writing rooms

A fully fitted recording room

Specialist rooms for  
**Media Production**  
students to use

## Fit for multipurpose

As a growing university, our spaces must be suitable for multiple courses to use. They also must be adaptable for a variety of different types of events that are held each year on campus.

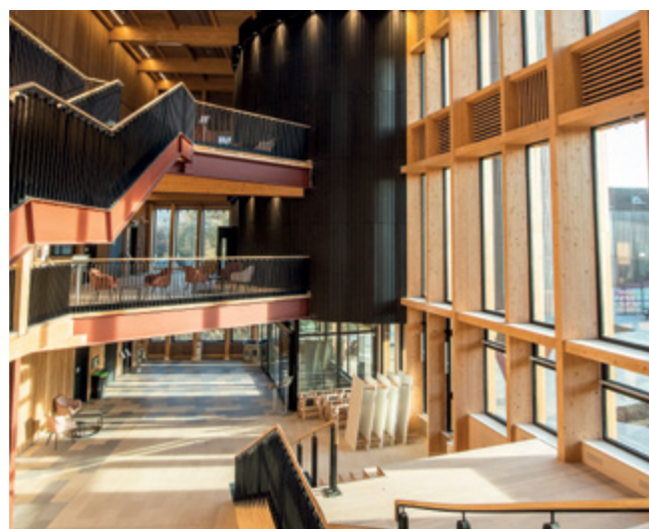
Since opening our new Creative Centre, our fantastic new space has already been used for a wide range of events alongside teaching. These include guest lectures, performances from local groups, art shows and even vintage clothing fairs! The new Creative Centre has also been built for long term use, with spaces able to be easily remodelled and repurposed as the needs of York St John University change.

## Upcoming events

Our fantastic Events team run a range of events all year round. They're not all held in the new Creative Centre, but there are plenty of types of events to enjoy. From art shows and poetry readings to guest lectures and live music, make sure to check out York St John's upcoming events on Eventbrite.



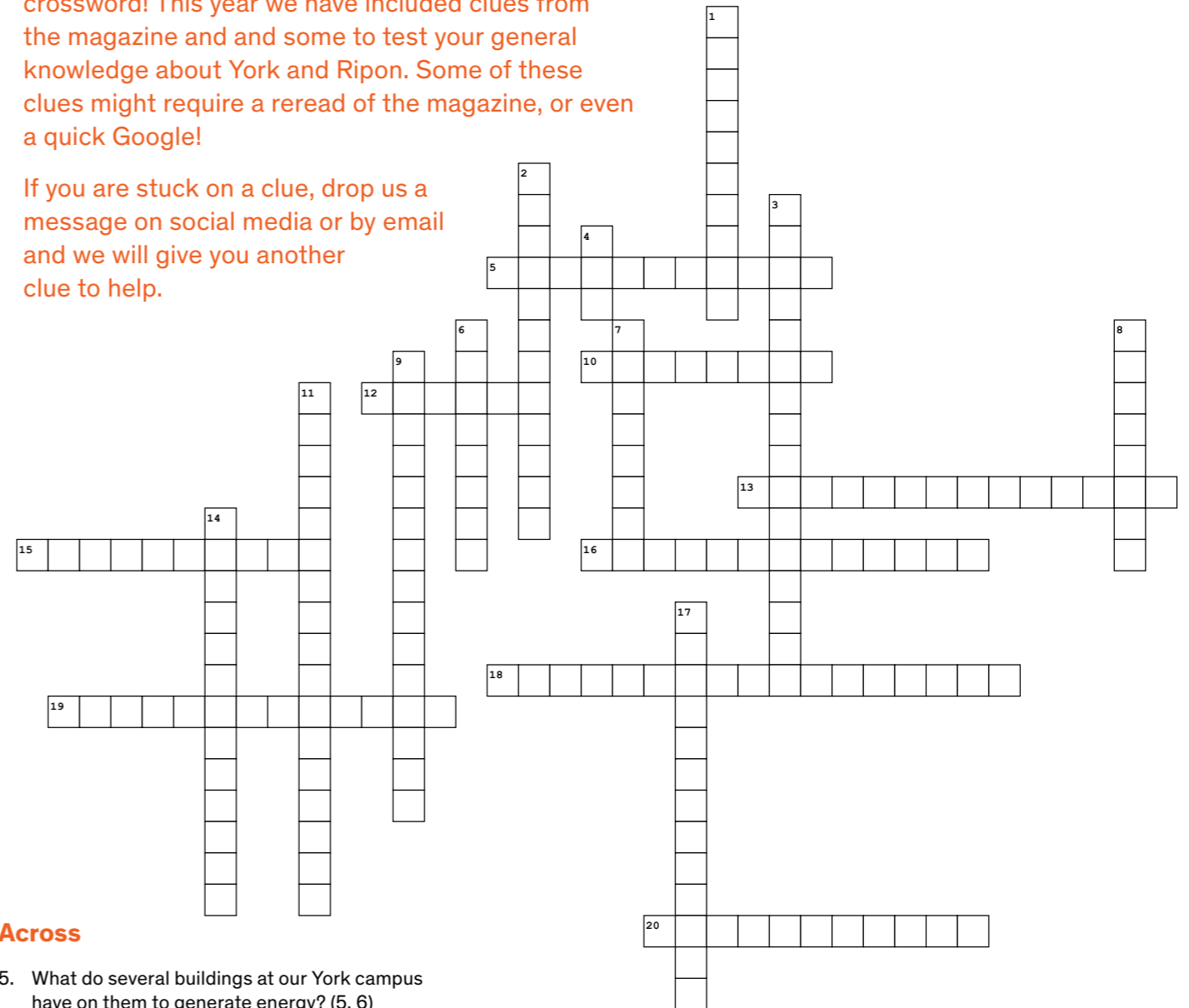
Discover our upcoming events:  
[yorks.ac.uk/events](https://yorks.ac.uk/events)



# Alumni magazine crossword 2022

It wouldn't be an alumni magazine without a crossword! This year we have included clues from the magazine and some to test your general knowledge about York and Ripon. Some of these clues might require a reread of the magazine, or even a quick Google!

If you are stuck on a clue, drop us a message on social media or by email and we will give you another clue to help.



## Across

- What do several buildings at our York campus have on them to generate energy? (5, 6)
- How long can you access career support with us? (8)
- Eleanor is a what of Joules? (6)
- Who was York's first woman MP? (7, 7)
- Ripon Cathedral's crypt dates from which period? (5, 5)
- Marianne's PhD researches which personality trait? (14)
- What's the name of the window in York Minster dedicated to all the women who lost their lives during World War One? (4, 7, 6)
- Located in a medieval church, you can learn more about archaeology at a museum on which street? (2, 11)
- Which Roman emperor was proclaimed in York? (11)

## Down

- You can donate to our scholarship fund online using what? (10)
- Who was Ripon College's first principal? (5, 7)
- What's the name of the remains of a roman fortress located in Museum Gardens? (11, 5)
- What month did our new business start up and incubation Enterprise Centre open? (3)
- Who can attend our upcoming reunion? (8)
- Which river runs through Ripon? (5, 3)
- If you want to buy a ghost, which of York's iconic streets would you need to visit? (8)
- Which subject has a writing room in the new Creative Centre? (8, 7)
- Who was York's first woman Lord Mayor? (4, 5, 8)
- Who was Principal of Ripon College in 1952? (9, 4)
- Where is our London campus now located? (4, 5, 4)

1841

# Leave a gift to York St John University

Whether you have written a will or not, have you ever considered leaving a gift to charity? It is surprisingly easy to leave a gift in your will, and we know your generosity will make a big difference.

As an alum of York St John University, you already know the life changing impact of higher education. Help us support the students of the future by leaving a gift in your will. Creating a York St John legacy couldn't be easier. You can help support future students in a range of ways, including setting up a scholarship, contributing to existing scholarship funds or by asking us to use your legacy as we see best.

To leave York St John a gift, apart from deciding on how you'll support our future students, all you need to know is:

Our exempt charity status number:

**GB 4498 683**

Our address:

**York St John University**

**Lord Mayor's Walk**

**York, YO31 7EX**

A will writing expert or solicitor will then be able to make sure your wishes are fully, and legally expressed, including any tax implications.

Whether your York St John legacy funds reading lists, helps students transport costs whilst on placement, or builds a new building, we will always honour your wishes, even if your wish is for us to use the funds as we see fit at the time!

If you decide to leave a gift in your will to York St John, we would like the opportunity to personally thank you for your generosity, invite you to exclusive events and keep you updated about life at York St John.

We know how personal a process it is to write a will and decide how you want to be remembered. From 1% of your estate to a £1 million gift, we know that no matter the size of your gift, it will help our future students thrive, just like you did when you studied with us.

If you would like to discuss the possibility of leaving a gift to York St John, or inform us of your decision to do so, please email [alumni@yorks.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@yorks.ac.uk) for a confidential discussion.

Est.  
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**YORK  
ST JOHN  
UNIVERSITY**