

The History of Newman University

1968-1977

Principal of Newman College
1968 to 1984
SIMON QUINLAN



Pre-1968: How Newman began

1964
Baby boom – A need for more teachers in Catholic schools
The baby boom after WW2 led to a rise in baptisms and a need for more schools, which in turn led to an increased need for Catholic primary school teachers. The Catholic Church (Catholic Education Service) invested into more teacher training colleges to train teachers for Catholic schools in the West Midlands.

or in Newcastle their contemporary one with a more catholic ethos. The building was in fact a three storey building with a street opposite the site. It was built in two years, they had 40 pupils and had to be built in Westmoreland.



1965
Athol House Farm land was the land given by the Archbishop of Birmingham, George Patrick Dwyer, for the foundation of Newman in 1965 and funds were raised to build a College of Higher Education in Birmingham that would be ready to open in 1968.

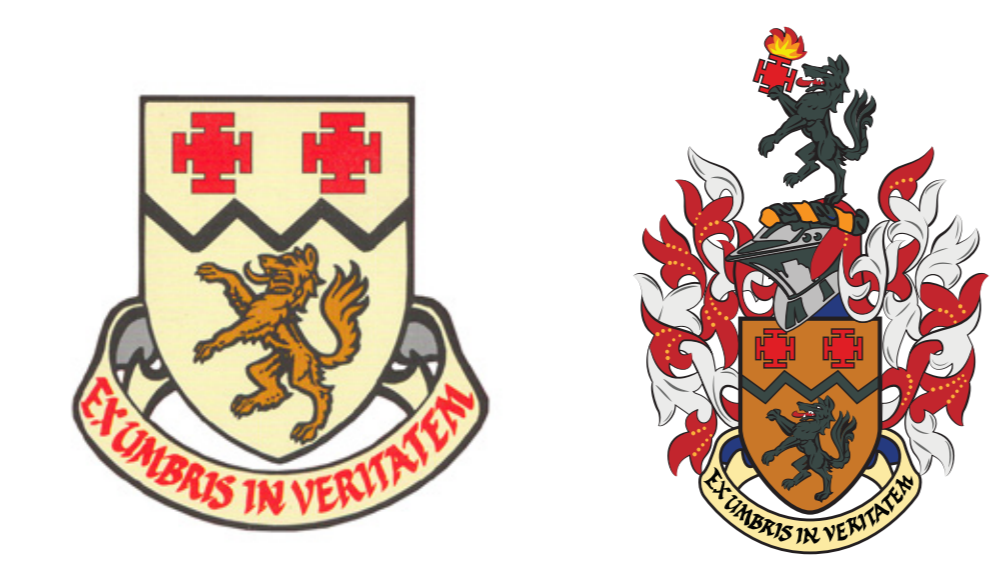
The announcement of the building of Newman College on the land of Athol House Farm, was featured in the Bromsgrove Messenger 1965.



Image provided by Bartley Green History Group

1966
The appointment of the first Principal of Newman, Simon Quinlan, MA, Deputy Principal Joe Blackledge MSc, PhD, FRIC, Vice Principal Miss Nicole Hodgson MA and College Chaplain Father Arthur Clarke in July 1966.

Construction of Newman College began in 1966. Newman College is one of sixteen Catholic Colleges of Education together providing initial teacher training for more than ten thousand student teachers.



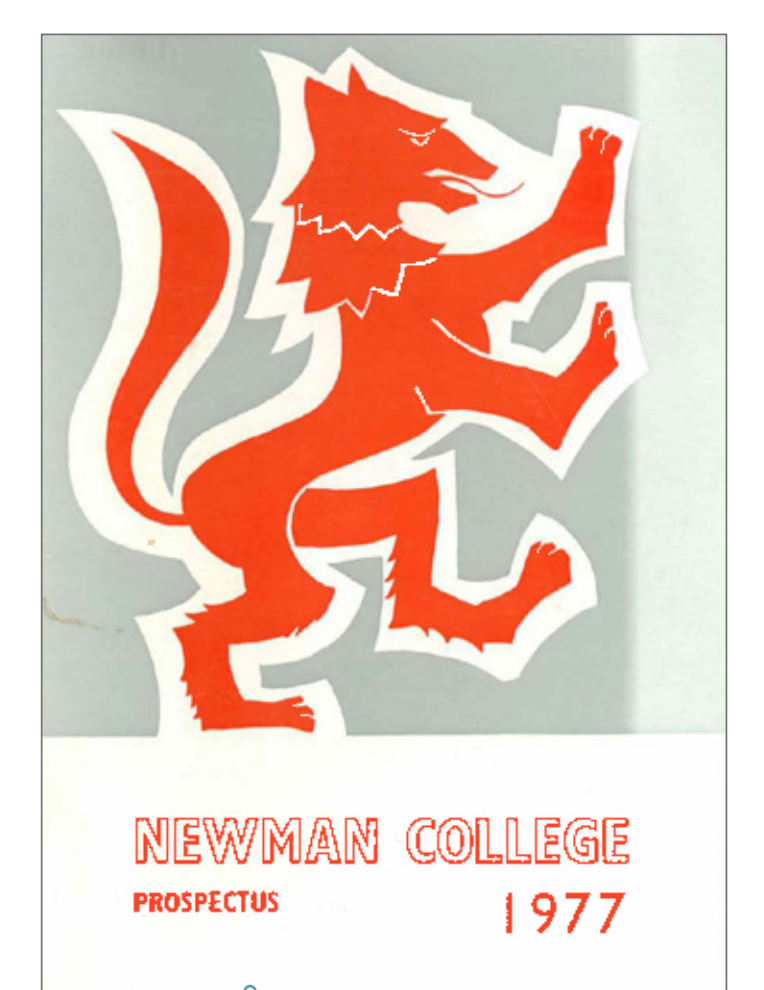
1967
The college stands on land which is recorded in the Domesday Book as having belonged, in Saxon times, to Wulfwine the thane who held it from the Church. The college badge – a rampant wolf – commemorates Wulfwine.

As the University was named in honour of Cardinal John Henry Newman, the zig-zag line which runs across the crest was taken from his personal coat of arms. The two crosses of St Chad signify that a person of well rounded and balanced education seeks truth in both the temporal and spiritual and also emphasises the close connection with St. Chad, a local Saint. The "flaming torch of knowledge representing the light" emphasises the educational purpose of the University.

The motto "Ex Umbris in Veritatem", is taken from Newman's own writings and roughly translated means "out of the shadows into Truth".

Our Patron
Newman University is named after Blessed John Henry Newman (1801 – 1890), one of the intellectual giants of the 19th century. His life was marked by a constant struggle for integrity and truth at a considerable cost to himself.

Leader of the Oxford Movement c.1835 Catholic convert, priest, writer, educationist; created Cardinal 1879, died Birmingham 1890.



1968

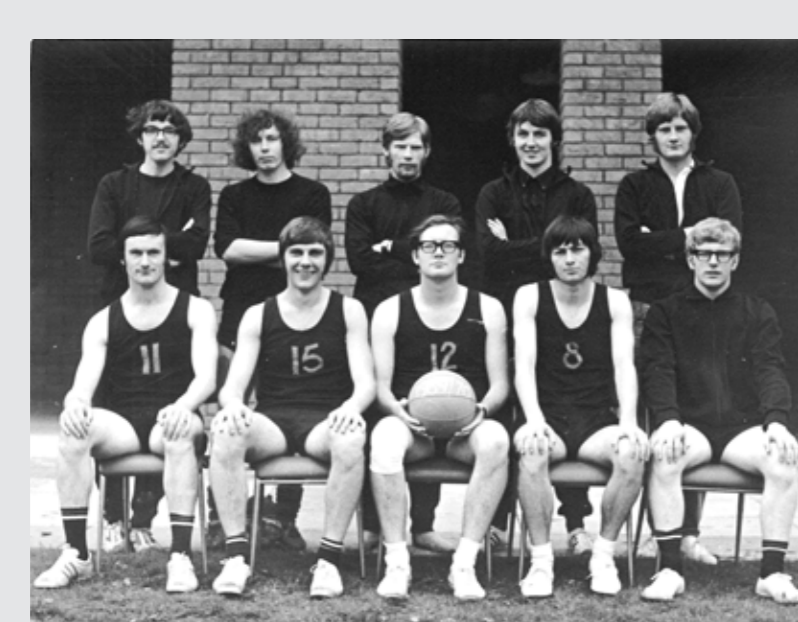
Sheila Dillon is appointed Domestic Bursar. The college is being built and students have to arrive in their wellies as the campus is still incomplete.

Enrolment
Newman receives 182 men and women. These are its first graduates studying for a Certificate of Education, with Simon Quinlan as its first Principal.

It is the first mixed gender institution under lay control.

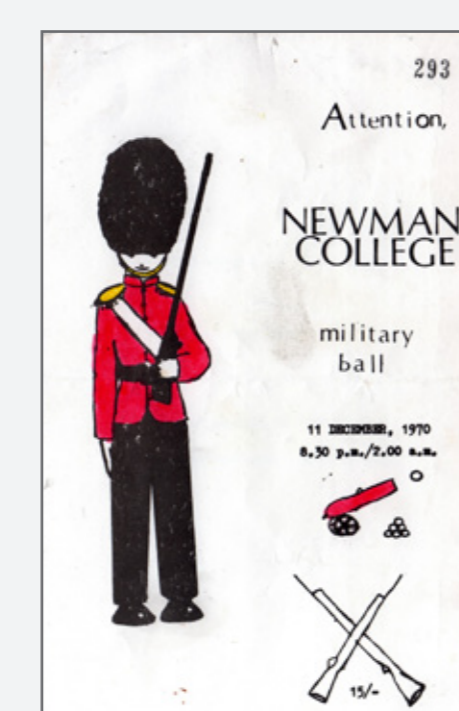
Alumnus Christopher Castell (1971 graduate) is elected as the first Student Union president.

1969



1970

September - Newman College saw its student body increase to 670 - a massive increase in just two years from 1968.



1971

Construction of Newman College is completed in July.

Newman reaches its target of receiving 720 students, 300 of which stay in the halls of residence.

The building work is completed at a cost of £1,500,000. His Eminence Cardinal John Carmel Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, officially opens Newman College on 10th July.

October - First cohort of students complete their Certificate in Education.

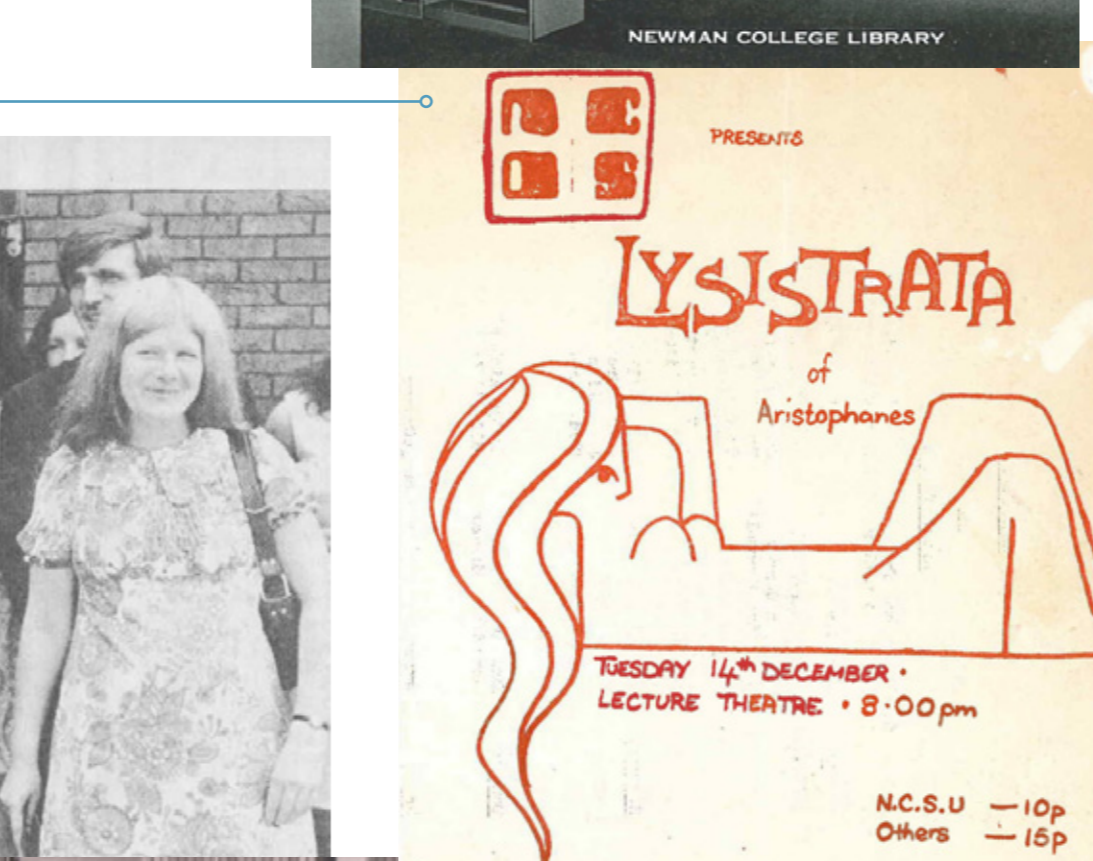
November - there were productions of 'Events while Guarding the Bofors Gun' and Lysistrata, followed by a College Concert on 1st December.

Fifteen colleges were constituent colleges of the University of Birmingham, this reduced to just Westhill College and Newman College over the next ten years.

1972

October - First Bachelor of Education students graduate.

The James Report was published in December 1972 by the White Paper 'Education: A Framework for Expansion' presented by the Secretary of State for Education and Science, Margaret Thatcher. The intentions were to raise the quality of teaching but also to ensure that the teacher supply was fit for demand.



1973

Disruption of gas supplies means no hot food, no lighting and difficulty in the kitchens.



1974

Few people have cars and the car park is mainly empty (no problems for parking!)

In July there was the first gathering of past students (alumni) with over a hundred attending.

Newman faces a threat to merge or close, but it remains largely untouched because of government initiatives.



1975

18th May - Mass was televised from St Marys Chapel.

Newman College is a constituent member of the University of Birmingham, School of Education and the college courses and examinations are conducted under regulations approved by the School.

A production of the Latin drama 'Daniel' was performed in the College chapel, in which Mr Simon Quinlan played a significant role.

Marriage of former students Moira and Michael McNulty on Newman College campus.

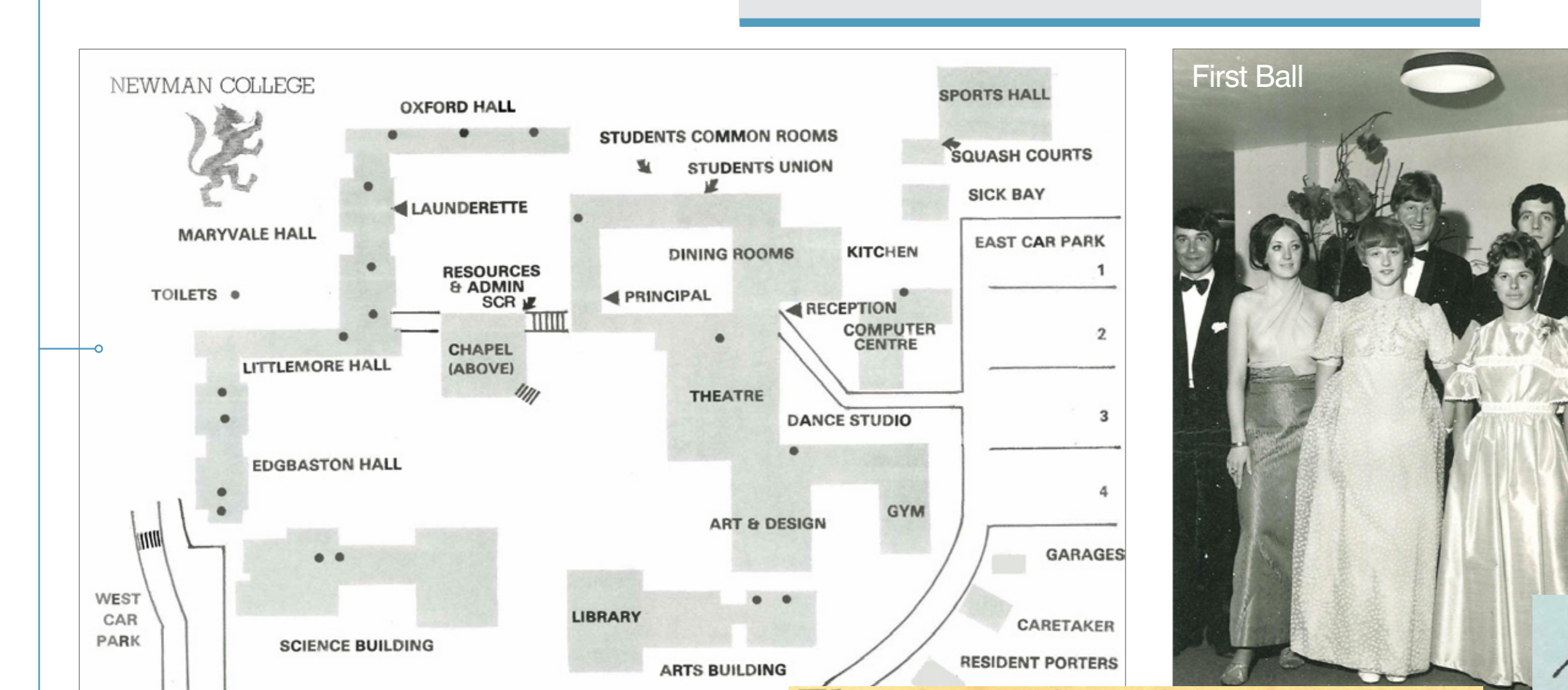
1976



1977

Marriage of former students Clare Walsh and Gerry Morrison.

Newman Academics and staff celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in the senior dining room.



September 1968 - first set of students enrol

That beginning of term feeling...

...but they end up smiling

First Ball

Cardinal Heenan Speaking to 'ATV Today'

The first Mass held in the chapel

Newman College 1971 Cohort Group

1970s Newman College Courtyard

Friends at Newman

No cars on Newman College Car Park

Newman College Sweating it out in style