

# ENGAGE

Newman's New  
Vice-Chancellor

Chris Upton  
Remembered

50th Anniversary  
Celebrations

Campus  
Redevelopments



Newman  
University  
Birmingham



## A Note from the Vice-Chancellor



**W**elcome to this edition of Engage, the Newman University Alumni Magazine. It is the first for which I have the privilege of writing as Vice-Chancellor. It is also, sadly, the edition in which we mark the passing of our inaugural Chancellor, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor and Dr Chris Upton, a stalwart member of the University and Birmingham local historian of renown. On a happier note, Engage gives us the opportunity to thank Professor Peter Lutzeier who retired as V-C in December 2016 for his outstanding service to the University.

Much has happened at Newman since the last edition of the Alumni Magazine. A visit to the campus will reveal the significant amount of construction completed and currently under way. St Mary's Chapel and the Julian of Norwich building have been refurbished and we have wonderful new teaching and social spaces in an extension to the Sturge Building. At the northeast end of the campus we now have the first of a number of new halls of residence to replace the original 1968 accommodation.

While the improvement of the estate provides the right environment for the accomplishment of good teaching and learning, it is of course the commitment and attitude of our staff and students which remains vital to the provision of a high quality educational experience. Our alumni will know that Newman has always been a special place with a strong sense of academic community, an ethos of welcoming all and providing higher education opportunities for those who would not normally enjoy them. It is therefore pleasing to report that we have achieved the award of Silver in the recent Teaching Excellence

Framework (TEF) where the panel judged that Newman delivered high quality teaching and learning outcomes for our students and that we consistently exceed rigorous national quality requirements. Staff as well as students appear to be happy at Newman. In a recent survey ninety-five per cent of all staff said the University was a good place to work.

As well as our teaching and learning, our research, scholarship and broader contribution to professional practice continues to develop well. The Templeton Foundation funded Centre for Science, Knowledge and Belief in Society has been a major addition to our research profile and complements significant work done by a number of staff which was recognised in the last Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014. We remain committed, as befits our mission of service, to producing research that has a significant positive impact on society.

Looking forward, 2018 will be a significant year for Newman as it will be fifty years since the foundation of the institution. We have a number of celebratory events in preparation to which our alumni will be invited, and we look forward to warmly welcoming as many of you to these as are able to attend. Meanwhile, I hope that this magazine will help keep you in touch with what is happening at Newman and to remind you that you are always welcome to visit.

*J Scott Davidson*

**Professor J Scott Davidson**  
Vice-Chancellor

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## REMEMBERING OUR CHANCELLOR



**E**arlier this year we were very saddened to hear the news of the death of Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor, Chancellor of Newman University. His Eminence Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor was Archbishop Emeritus of Westminster and former spiritual leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Born on 24th August 1932 in Reading, Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor was ordained to the priesthood in Rome on 28th October 1956. On 21st December 1977, he was ordained Bishop of Arundel and Brighton. From 1983 to 2000 he was Chair of the Bishops' Conference Committee for Christian Unity, and, from 1994 to 2000, was Chair of the Department for Mission and Unity. In 2000 he was awarded a Doctorate of Divinity by then Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury Dr George Carey in recognition of all his work for Christian unity.

Professor J Scott Davidson,  
Vice-Chancellor of Newman

University, Birmingham, said:  
"The thoughts of everyone at Newman University are with our Chancellor Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor at this time and we pray that his strong faith gives comfort to his family, friends and colleagues."

"Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor has been a real advocate for the university – one of the first Catholic universities in England since the Reformation – since his appointment in 2014 and has proven to be a trusted and supportive advisor to both myself and my predecessor as Vice-Chancellor during that time."

"A pioneer in his ecumenical and interfaith work, he provided spiritual guidance during an unprecedented period of social change and, as a university that is committed to providing students with a formative education shaped by intellectual rigour and an awareness of how their actions and decisions impact and are shaped by the world around them, he was the natural choice to be our inaugural Chancellor."

### ALUMNI OFFICE UPDATE



**I**t's all change in the Alumni team at Newman. This summer saw Bryan Turner join as the new Alumni Officer, replacing Sarah Lilly who has left for pastures new.

Bryan has worked in several roles at the University since 2010, starting off in the library then moving into the marketing team in 2014.

"I am delighted to take on this new role, as Newman reaches its 50th anniversary in 2018. I look forward to meeting you all and celebrating Newman's important milestone next year. I am excited for the next generation of the alumni office, and hope to build long lasting relationships with our alumni community."

## NEWMAN UNIVERSITY RECEIVES LIVESIMPLY AWARD



**N**ewman University has been awarded the livesimply award from the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD).

The livesimply award gives Catholic communities the opportunity to respond to Pope Francis' invitation to "work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us." The award is for those communities who have shown they have been living

simply, in solidarity with people in poverty and sustainably in creation.

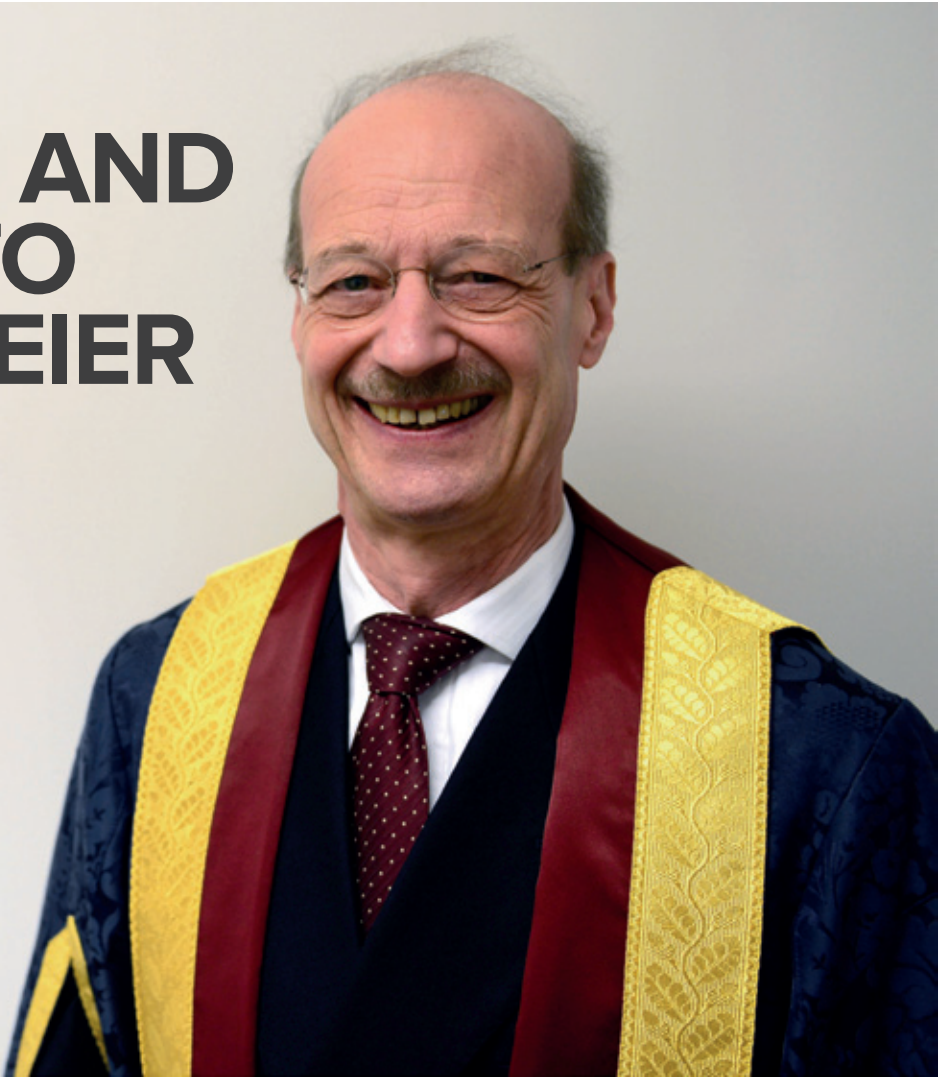
The university has consistently shown that they follow this way of life by partaking in a variety of activities over the years which have resulted in real changes for the environmental impact of the university.

The university Chaplain, Margaret Holland, commented "We, at Newman University, are extremely proud of becoming the first university to achieve the livesimply award and of our ongoing relationship with CAFOD. The staff and students have come together to show solidarity in tackling the issues that we face in order for us to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with those in need. We are looking forward to continuing to embed these principles in all we do."



# THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO PETER LUTZEIER

Professor Peter Lutzeier retired at the end of 2016 after being Vice-Chancellor for seven successful years at Newman University, which included leading it to full university status in 2013. “This could only happen through the joint and persistent effort of so many brilliant colleagues, whether in service or academic areas, duly committed to the advancement of the institution and its Catholic principles.”



Professor Lutzeier, originally from Stuttgart, Germany was the first Vice-Chancellor for the university and he also became the chair of The Cathedrals Group during his time at Newman.

When talking to Times Higher Education, Professor Lutzeier once stated that the best thing about his job as Vice-Chancellor was “to see colleagues develop and flourish, especially those I’ve appointed myself.”

**What is the thing you miss most about Newman University?**  
Daily lively interactions with staff and students and the beauty of the campus.

**What would you say your proudest achievement was when you were Vice-Chancellor?**  
The University title for then Newman University College.

**How are you enjoying your retirement?**  
Having the time and peace of mind to oversee the final proof

phases for my dictionary project and, partially, doing totally new things. For instance, looking after a totally neglected and overgrown orchard, harvesting a whole variety of wonderful fruit and supporting Ledbury country market cooperative, which goes back to the Second World War.

**Can you tell us a story of a memorable moment from your time at Newman?**  
There are lots of them, but a very good one is the row of smiling and delighted faces of so many loyal and absolutely committed colleagues proud to work at Newman at our first long service awards event.

**If you were able to set one target for Newman University, what would it be?**  
We all want Newman University to be successful and true to its Catholic principles, but setting “one ambition for Newman University” I had better leave in the capable hands of my successor, Professor Scott Davidson.

**If you could sum up your time at Newman in just one sentence, what would it be?**  
This could be a very long sentence, but I will try a condensed form: An exciting journey of taking staff and students from a University College to a University, which could only happen through the joint and persistent effort of so many brilliant colleagues, whether in service or academic areas, duly committed to the advancement of the institution and its Catholic principles.



“The best thing about the job of Vice-Chancellor was to see colleagues develop and flourish, especially those I’ve appointed myself.”

# WELCOMING SCOTT DAVIDSON

January this year saw Newman University welcome its new Vice-Chancellor, Professor J. Scott Davidson.

The installation took place at the heart of the university in St Mary’s Chapel and saw Professor Davidson succeed Professor Peter Lutzeier and set out his vision for Newman as it prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary next year.

**Place of birth:**  
Newcastle upon Tyne

**Previous jobs:**

- Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Lincoln
- Director of the Hull Law School
- Dean of the Waikato Law School, New Zealand
- Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Canterbury Law School
- Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Canterbury, New Zealand

**What are your interests (personal and academic)?**  
**Personal interests:**

- The voyages of Captain James Cook RN
- The novels of Patrick O’Brien (naval novels set in the Napoleonic Wars)
- Music (from Early to Baroque to Jazz to 70s where regrettably my interest seems to have come to an end)
- Visual arts, particularly modern art

**Academic interests:**

- International Law
- International Law of the Sea
- International Law of Human Rights

**Can you tell us an interesting fact about yourself?**  
I have followed in the wake of nearly every one of Cook’s voyages. The only voyage I haven’t completed is the North Pacific. I also want to sail to the St Lawrence Seaway where Cook learnt his craft as a hydrographer.

**As a child, what was your dream career?**  
To be a Naval Officer. (I did gain a scholarship to the Royal Naval College Britannia at Dartmouth, but it didn’t work out.)

**What is your proudest achievement?**  
With my wife raising a son who still seems to take pleasure in the company of his parents.

**What is the best part of your job?**  
Watching the delight and pleasure of staff, students and their parents at graduation when they all realise what they have achieved.

**What surprised you the most about Newman University?**  
How intimate it has been and still remains.

**Can you tell us what your favourite part of Birmingham is?**  
St Paul’s Square and the Jewellery Quarter, which give a real sense of what Birmingham must have been like in the 18th and 19th centuries.

**If you could give students one piece of advice, what would it be?**  
Put as much energy into your studies as you can and remain open to opportunities; you never know where they may take you. (I think that’s two pieces of advice!)

**What is your long-term vision for Newman?**  
This requires an essay, but I can do little better than quote the Blessed John Henry himself, that Newman University should be a place of light, liberty and learning – to which I would add that I would like it to be a place of joy which gives everyone, no matter what their background, the opportunity to excel academically and develop personally.



“Newman University should be a place of light, liberty and learning.”



# FACULTY OF EDUCATION



Dr Lorraine Thomas  
Dean, Faculty of Education

The Faculty of Education is a vibrant community, with an excellent portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Early Childhood Education and Care; Education and Multi-professional Practice; and Initial Teacher Education (ITE). We now offer non-accredited continuing

professional development (CPD) in a wide range of areas to support your own further learning and development, in addition to offering consultancy to support school improvement. Our CPD offer includes national professional recognition via the Teaching and Learning Academy (TLA). Furthermore, we regularly

organise seminars and events via our research centre, the Newman Institute of Leadership in Education (NILE), which was established by our former Dean, Professor Steve Rayner, who retired at the end of the last academic year.



Looking back on 2016-17, we hosted lots of very successful events which were attended by many of our alumni. Events such as the Children's University graduation ceremony, a 'School Leadership in the 21st Century' lecture by Professor Tim Brighouse and a 'Schools and the Mental Health and Wellbeing of their Pupils' conference.

We also validated a new BA (Hons) Education Studies and a PGCE without QTS (for those who undertook GTP and Teach First courses, or undertook the Assessment Only route). We also launched an EdD (taught professional doctorate), in partnership with Liverpool Hope University.

Newman students have benefitted from lots of enrichment opportunities, such as the Primary ITE field trip to The Gambia.

Looking forward to this year, there are exciting times ahead with the full refurbishment of the Darwin building; celebrating the achievements of young people via the Junior University initiative, which encourages 14-16 year olds to consider a university education; and events to celebrate our 50th anniversary and to thank our partners for their key contributions to Newman over many years.

We shall also be validating a BA (Hons) Secondary and Post-compulsory Education, and a part-time top up route in Primary Education.

I hope to welcome you back to the Newman University community in the near future to continue your learning and development; attend Newman events; and/or engage with our consultancy offer. I also hope you may be able to offer placements to our students, to get involved in mentoring our students in the future and encourage others to study at Newman University. New paragraph after Newman University.

For more information about any of the above please visit [www.newman.ac.uk/faculty-of-education](http://www.newman.ac.uk/faculty-of-education) or email [fed@newman.ac.uk](mailto:fed@newman.ac.uk)

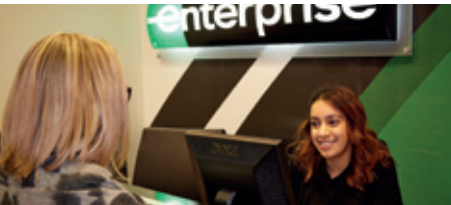


# FACULTY OF ARTS, SOCIETY AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES



Professor Frank Leishman  
Dean, Faculty of Arts, Society and Professional Studies

Welcome to FASPS, short for the new Faculty of Arts, Society and Professional Studies, which is composed of three Departments: Arts and Humanities, Social Science and Business, Health and Behavioural Sciences.



## SOCIAL SCIENCE AND BUSINESS

Comprising the three subject groups of Business Management; Criminology, Youth and Community Studies; and Working with Children, Young People and Families (WWCYPF), this Department is seen as the natural location for the development of planned new programme provision in Law.

The Department has well-established links with regional FE Colleges in the areas of Applied Social Science, Business Systems and Management, Special Educational Needs and Youth Work, and is also a strong recruiter of top-up degree students. WWCYPF colleagues have recently pioneered an innovative dual degree in International Social Work with Ludwigsburg University, Germany.

The Department has close community connections with various third sector and social enterprise organisations and is actively networking with the criminal justice sector, including running a pilot education programme in HM Prison Birmingham. Business Management has cultivated productive links with regional employers, notably Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

## ARTS AND HUMANITIES

The Department of Arts and Humanities brings together the four subject areas of Drama, English and Creative Writing, History and Theology, and will be an important player in the University's efforts towards achieving Research Degree Awarding Powers (RDAP), including - as it now does - one professor, six readers and a high concentration of MPhil/PhD students.

The Department has fostered some excellent external partnerships with, among others, the Birmingham and Midland Institute, Black Country

Living Museum, Markfield Institute of Higher Education, Queen's Foundation and Writing West Midlands. Drama maintains a prominent profile in the city through regular student performances in professional spaces, and through CADLab's innovative hospital bedside theatre work, supported by BBC Children in Need.

The Department is actively considering new curriculum developments in Liberal Arts, Philosophy and Politics.



## HEALTH AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES

The Department brings together the three subject areas of Counselling and Psychotherapy, Psychology and Sport and Health. A key feature of the Department's provision is professional accreditation, with a number of its courses recognised by the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP), British Psychological Society (BPS) and UK Council for Psychotherapy (UKCP). Since their recent introduction to the portfolio, new courses in Health and Social Care have been recruiting extremely well.

The Department has links with a wide range of external organisations, including local football club foundations, the Belfry Golf Course, St Basil's Charity, and the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, the latter reflecting the significant Departmental staff expertise that exists within the field of mental health studies.

Sport and PE alumni will be interested to know that Newman continues to invest in improvements to its sports facilities; this semester saw the successful launch on campus of our

new state-of-the-art 3G football pitch. Unfortunately it was not so successful for the Staff Football Team, who lost 7-0 to the Students' Team in the inaugural match during Freshers' Week!







A state-of-the-art 3G artificial grass pitch was officially opened in September by former England and Aston Villa footballer, Darius Vassell and match official and former student, Sian Massey-Ellis, MBE.

The £315,968 grant from the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund has enabled Newman University to upgrade the university's all-weather sand-based pitch to a third generation (3G) Artificial Grass Pitch. This type of surface is now used for major football competitions including FIFA World Cup qualification matches and the UEFA Champions League. Newman University is helping to address the shortage and demand of football in Birmingham by contributing to community programmes and to facilitate governing body local strategic plans.

The site will be used by Newman University students, Birmingham City FC Community Trust, Northfield Town FC, Bartley Reds FC and other local football clubs as well

as recreational users and local schools. Football referee, Sian Massey-Ellis MBE is an alumna of Newman University and is also an advocate of promoting football to young people. Sian was present at the official opening on Wednesday 20th September and officiated the first staff vs student football game on the new pitch.

*"It was great to return to Newman University, where I studied, for the official opening of the new all-weather pitch and to officiate a match. This is a state-of-the-art facility which is going to hugely benefit the university's players, as well as local people. I hope the new pitch will inspire more people to get active, and maybe even discover a new love of refereeing!"*

**Professor J Scott Davidson,** Vice-Chancellor at Newman University, said: *"The grant from the Football Foundation and the Premier League is one which we are extremely thankful for; the grant will not only improve our facilities for our own students but it will also give members of the wider community the opportunity to have somewhere local that they can use to train and play. Here at Newman University we strive to be inclusive of our local community and the new pitch means that sports clubs, schools and individuals will have a better experience of playing grassroots sports here in Birmingham."*



## Alumni Profile

# Sian Massey-Ellis, MBE

BSc Sports Studies & PGCE Secondary Physical Education



Sian, originally from Coventry, studied Sports Studies and also her PGCE in Physical Education at Newman University during the years of 2004 to 2007. Sian gained First Class Honours in her Sports Course and then decided to progress on to her PGCE. *"I chose Newman as it did sport and had great links to teaching and I always wanted to teach."*

When Sian was just 14 she began her refereeing courses and that is where her journey to becoming a Premier League Official started. Sian explains that her father was a big mentor in her life as he too was a grassroots referee and was able to teach Sian a lot about the football industry.

Sian began her journey, as many officials do, by being involved in grassroots football before being promoted to semi-professional football and then making her way into the professional game.

Sian recently revisited Newman University to be a part of the opening of the new 3G pitch on campus. Sian commented *"It's a*

*great opportunity for the future students to have access to [the pitch], allowing students to have better teaching facilities. It's a real honour for me [to return] as I loved my time at Newman."*

Studying sport at Newman University allowed Sian to continue with her refereeing and to progress within the industry. Sian comments that she made the most progress as a referee when she was at university. She was also able to take advantage of the opportunities on offer at Newman, including being part of the university netball team.

Sian enjoyed her time at Newman and explains that she always had the correct amount of support throughout her studies; *"I had lots of support at Newman, staff were always willing to support and they also supported me around my refereeing. If I didn't understand something they were always there to explain."*

After completing university, Sian continued with her refereeing

career and made her debut in the professional world of football in 2009 refereeing Hereford vs Port Vale in League One. From then she has continued to impress, making her way into Premier League fixtures with her debut being Sunderland vs Blackpool, and finally onto the field for international games with highlights such as the women's European championship final game in Sweden between Germany and Norway in 2013.

Sian has now officiated over 60 Premier League games, over 15 women's games and been involved in 9 FA Cup fixtures.

Sian loves her career and has had many positive experiences thus far *"I have had many positives [in my career] such as players apologising for questioning decisions to managers coming in to the dressing rooms after to say you have done well. Comments such as 'thought you were great today ref' really are the reason why we referee. You want to be good for the game."*

Sian is an advocate for ensuring that females are encouraged not only in playing football but also being involved with the sport in a number of other ways, including being match officials.

*"It's important that if girls want to get involved in football that they can see officiating is a choice. It's important that they can see there are opportunities to be involved in football as a match official."* It is for this reason that Sian has recently received an honorary degree as a Doctor of Science from Newman University.

*"It's a real honour to be invited back to university, I loved my time at Newman and I love coming back. I really feel like I developed so much as a person at Newman."*

When asked what advice she would give to students at Newman University Sian replied: *"Always try your best. When it seems hard that's when you try harder!"*



# REMEMBERING DR CHRIS UPTON

Words by Dr Ian Cawood  
Reader in Modern History,  
Newman University

Chris Upton was far, far more than a Newman University academic. He was a specialist in medieval history, with a fluency in Latin and publications on the early universities. He was a qualified librarian and had worked for many years in the Local History department of Birmingham Central Library. He was an expert in ancient history, as anyone who accompanied him on a field trip to Rome or Athens could attest. He was a superb tour guide, in his element in taking students, visiting scholars and members of the public on sprawling walking explorations of the local history of many towns and cities that left his audiences exhausted but never bored. He was an excellent journalist, writing a regular column for the Birmingham Post for 25 years and penning articles on almost every historical period imaginable for a range of publications, including the Guardian. Most famously, he was a heritage expert, advising on important local restoration projects such as the Ikon Gallery, the Kings Norton Grammar School and the National Trust's Back to Backs and frequently appearing on the radio and television to offer a dash of scholarly expertise with a chuckle in his voice and a twinkle in his eye.

But most of you would simply recognise him as Chris, in the history department. Where would you have found him at Newman (if he wasn't out pursuing all those other careers or on a field trip)? He might have been in his office surrounded by books, documents and dirty coffee cups. He might have been in the library, forever re-organising his wonderful local history collection that he played a huge role in setting up in the 1990s. He might have been in the chapel, practising with the University choir and indulging in his second great passion after history, music. Or he might have been in the smoking shelter or outside the front of the university, surrounded by students and staff, laughing uproariously and trying to be nice to people who supported teams other than the Wolves.

If I think about Chris (which I do almost every day at Newman), I remember his immense kindness to colleagues, friends and most especially students, with whom he would spend happy hours talking about the knottier problems of reconstructing Hellenic Greece or understanding Chaucerian English. He was an unusually generous man, who could well have had a much more exalted career had he been more selfish or less kind. He himself had benefitted from the kind support of teachers and tutors at Wolverhampton Grammar School and at university and he saw it as his duty to do the same for those who studied under him. It was Martin Luther King who famously said that "every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness" and never have I met a man who made the right choice so emphatically.

What do I miss about Chris? I miss the sound of his whistling, which always indicated

a man happy in what he did. I miss the conversations which would begin about some boring bit of admin we needed to sort out, but ended up on our favourite Bowie album, the genius of Woody Allen's stand-up comedy routines or the terrible quality of our political leaders since the 1970s. Chris was no clichéd academic leftie, with a patronising condescension towards ordinary people, but a man who understood the obstacles that many working class students faced. Most of all I miss his writing, which was funny, clear sighted and completely jargon-free. This is one of my favourite examples of his work, when he wrote about the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Birmingham in World War II for the Birmingham Post, shortly after he started at what was then Newman College of Higher Education:

*It's September 1940 and Hitler's bombs are raining down on England, but the people of Britain pull together. A new sense of solidarity carries them through.*

*Ah, well, not all the time and not everybody. The air-raid suprema of Birmingham, Councillor Norman Tiptaft, has had words to say on that score and he wasn't mincing any of them. "The way in which the public shelters are being used by a section of the public," he said, "is causing a grave problem for the ARP Committee."*

*No pun intended here. This is nothing to do with direct hits on air-raid shelters. The problem starts long before the bombers fly over.*

*Various less-than-public-spirited people are queuing in order to get the best seat when the shelter was unlocked and are even leaving bedding there to keep their patch for the next night.*

*For from pulling together like responsible Brits, they're already behaving like the enemy would over a poolside deckchair. We might as well surrender now.*

It's typically Chris – iconoclastic, interesting and actually based on historical sources and academic debates, but without resorting to words like 'discourse', 'revisionism' or 'epistemology' which he knew would turn off his readers' attention.

When we held the memorial service for Chris in the chapel at Newman in October 2015, we watched pictures of him as a young man while some of his favourite music played. We heard the choir sing some of his favourite songs (including 'Abide With me' which he always associated with the FA Cup final). We remembered his love of the unlikely combination of terrible puns, medieval Latin and real ale. And we listened as some of his friends and colleagues read some of the words which meant most to him. His favourite was from the first work of English History by the Venerable Bede ("the only Englishman Dante found in heaven" he once reminded



Chris and History students on the Florence field trip in 2013.



Chris hosts one of his memorable Historic Pub Crawls.

**“He was an unusually generous man, who could well have had a much more exalted career had he been more selfish or less kind”**

me) and its wistful, but ultimately positive view of life in many ways encapsulates Chris to me. It may seem flippant, much as he often could, but actually, it carries a profound truth which one could always meet in Chris's work and teaching:

*The present life of man upon earth, O king, seems to me, in comparison with that time which is unknown to us, like to the swift flight of a sparrow through the house wherein you sit at supper in winter, with your ealdormen and thegns, while the fire blazes in the midst, and the hall is warmed, but the wintry storms of rain or snow are raging abroad. The sparrow, flying in at one door and immediately out at another, whilst he is within, is safe from the wintry tempest; but after a short space of fair weather, he immediately vanishes out of your sight, passing from winter into winter again. So this life of man appears for a little while, but of what is to follow or what went before we know nothing at all.*

We all miss Chris, but we're all very proud that we are carrying on his work at Newman, a place where he loved working and sharing his passions with friends and students.



# NEWMAN STUDENTS' UNION



Rosie Richter  
Students' Union President

It's been a hectic couple of weeks at NSU HQ with the arrival of over 1000 new students. Induction talks, recruitment of Course Reps and Freshers' Week have left the Executive Committee with nothing but equal measures of optimism and the smell of cheap energy drinks that carried them through their 80-hour week. But now the dust has settled and those happy-go-lucky baby-faced Freshers are starting to settle into their new lives, what is next for the Students' Union?

### ADVICE-VICE-BABY!

Newman Students' Union has launched an advice service for students who are accused of academic misconduct or need support with a complaint or an appeal against the University. The advice service has been accredited by AdviceUK, and the Students' Union work alongside Newman University to train its advisors. All advisors are placement students who will take on the role alongside their course.

### NEWMAN RAISE & GIVE WIN 'MOST IMPROVED' AT RAG AWARDS 2017



With their passion of charity fundraising and volunteering, students came together to restart the Raise and Give (RaG) society in 2016. Newman SU is proud that the leaders and volunteers of RaG have been recognised nationally by the National Student Fundraising Association (NaSFA) and NUS through the National RaG Awards.

Newman received the award for the Most Improved RaG. The NaSFA committee said that this was awarded to Newman because of their drastic improvements and reinvigoration of RaG; smashing a high fundraising target for a small RaG; and showing the importance of RaG to the Union so that it has now become an Executive Committee Position.

Nicole Benney, Chair of RaG 2016/2017 and the first RaG and Community Officer, said, "It means so much to be recognised for all the hard work that the team from the last year have put in, especially against such big and well-known institutions".

This year the RaG society are well on the way to achieving their £6000 target, having already achieved £2000 since September.

### BIRMINGHAM CITY FC SIGN NSU ON ONE YEAR DEAL

Newman Students' Union and Birmingham City FC have secured a deal to offer staff, students and alumni discount tickets to home games. The Ticket Incentive Scheme gives the Newman Community tickets at £10 for adults, £5 for 13-18 year olds and £3 for under 13s.

The best part of the deal is that the SU will receive 50% of the revenue if four or more tickets are purchased in one transaction. This means that if four adult tickets are sold, the SU will receive £20 to put back into student activity.



To take advantage of this offer, and give something back to students at Newman, simply contact Ryan Beasley on [r.beasley@newman.ac.uk](mailto:r.beasley@newman.ac.uk) or phone 0121 483 2225 to receive a unique code. Once you have done this, you will need to phone the BCFC ticket hotline on 0121 772 0101 (option 2) quoting your code.



From left – Mary Fox (Shortridge), Clare Cat (Axtell), Sue Buckley (Dieffenthaler), Anne Rowsome (Dewar), Krystyna Elcocks (Chojnacka) and Maggie Carney.

# CLASS OF '77 RETURN TO NEWMAN

In September we were visited by six ladies from the Class of 1977 who studied the Certificate in Education here at Newman College as it was then known. Mary Fox (née Shortridge), who arranged the visit, wrote in to us afterwards to reflect on her time at Newman:

The Summer of 1977 wasn't a patch on the previous one; the endless sunshine made the reservoir run dry and taking a bath a crime against society. But for six of us who left Newman to take the world by storm, 1977 was a good year. Our three years at college had been testing, tiring and eventually a triumph. Over the next few decades we would attend each other's weddings, celebrate the arrival of a dozen children and keep up with life developments with the annual Christmas card.

The threat of a reunion was made every year – but it always went away, until this year. Forty years on we got back together and headed to Bartley Green for the ultimate trip down memory lane.

Birmingham has changed, we decided, for the better. Bartley Green seemed the same. The college has grown, the new buildings a stark contrast to A, B, C and D block and now there is a panoramic view of the reservoir which seemed to us be miles away when we were students.

But the welcome and the warmth of the place was just as it was forty years ago. It has grown in size and stature – and opportunities leap out from every corner, computer and

noticeboard. It reflects the shifting position of students in the millennium. We mostly went for free in the 1970s and understood our good fortune and rarely made any demands on academia. Now it feels as if customer service is one of the cornerstones of life at Newman.

Most of us lived in halls for a couple of years and the bar became the centre of our social and academic universe. It's been moved downstairs now and it's smaller – a sign perhaps that students are a little more serious and focussed.

We have enjoyed long, satisfying and successful careers. Not one of us regretted a moment at Newman – sometimes we might wish we were back there if only to recapture the golden glow of youth and the pre-internet age where we would patiently queue to use the phone box in reception to call home. We danced in the lecture theatre and sunbathed on the grassy areas listening to Radio 1 and enjoyed amazing food three times a day without having to do any washing up. Life was slower and simpler but still great fun.

We just shouldn't have left it so long to come back! It really is something special – as indeed were we.



Mary at the June Summer Ball 1977 outside her room in A Block

The Alumni Association is always keen to welcome graduates back on campus. If you would like to return to Newman with some of your fellow alumni please email us on [alumni@newman.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@newman.ac.uk) and we will be happy to arrange a campus tour, and listen to your memories over a coffee.

For information on special upcoming events for our 50th anniversary, turn to page 23.





# A NEW LOOK NEWMAN!



The past few years have seen many changes to our campus in Bartley Green. Since the original £20 million investment that we featured in our first Engage Magazine back in 2013, the University has continued to improve its facilities with a further £21 million being spent on exciting campus “phase one” redevelopments.

### New Halls of Residence

January 2018 will see Newman University move its first cohort of students into the Cofton Halls, the first new halls of residence building since Newman opened in 1968. Officially opened in November and blessed by the Archbishop of Birmingham, the new halls of residence consist of 108 en-suite bedrooms, featuring open-plan flats with fully integrated kitchen and living area. The top floors have a stunning view of the Bartley Green reservoir and the Birmingham city centre skyline.

### Farewell to Newman Close

Many alumni will have fond memories of living in one of the four houses in Newman Close. However due to the ever-increasing demands for car parking spaces, Newman Close was demolished in 2016 allowing for 67 additional parking spaces, and improved landscaping for the campus.

### Hilda Atrium

After the success of our main St Chad’s atrium, the University decided to create a second atrium area, providing extra social learning space for students. The Hilda Atrium, named after Saint Hilda of Whitby, is a double-storey extension to the Sturge Building, providing nine new classrooms and a second lecture theatre in the south end of the campus. The Sanctuary canteen has also been refurbished, and now includes a Grumpy Mule coffee shop.



### St Mary’s Chapel

The iconic stairs leading up to St Mary’s chapel will no doubt be fixed in the minds of alumni who remember passing by as they walked through the Ryland Quad. They have now been replaced with an accessibility-friendly walkway that leads directly into the chapel. St Mary’s chapel itself has also been modernised on the inside, but still retains its original charm.



### Julian of Norwich

The ground floor of the Julian of Norwich building has been extended and refurbished. The building’s welcoming and bright atmosphere provides a more effective and accommodating teaching and learning environment for Psychology and Counselling students and staff.



Alumni Profile

# Paul Conroy

Certificate in Education



Paul Conroy studied towards a Certificate in Education at then Newman College, in the late 1960s.

Paul's passion lay in the creative industry and after being put off a career in Typographic Design as he was told there were very few jobs in the printing industry; Paul decided to use his creative flair to inspire the next generation and began training to become a teacher.

“Newman was my first long term away from home – I loved the year I spent at the college and in Birmingham – it certainly helped me to mature and I made many good friends.”

Paul completed his year at Newman, teaching in schools in Handsworth, but found that his true passion lay in music. After forming contacts in London, Paul took the leap within his career to attempt to make it big in the music industry. His family had reservations about his decision, and although he was unsure whether he would be successful, Paul knew it was the journey he needed to take. In his early career Paul was a booker, organising tours for the likes of The Foundations, Caravan and Genesis. He then moved on to become a general manager of Stiff Records in 1983 where he worked with artists such as Elvis Costello and Madness.

Paul's next career move was to become the Managing Director of the US division at WEA Records and he was responsible for names such as Paul Simon, AC/DC and Madonna.

Paul next big career move was in 1989 when he moved to Chrysalis Records; and as President of the company he revamped the business to make it a hugely successful record label. The label looked after artists such

as Sinead O'Connor, Chesney Hawkes, Billy Idol, Blondie and World Party.

It was clear that Paul's risk to make his move in the music industry was paying off, and it was at this time in the early 1990s that Paul secured his position at Virgin Records as their President. Paul held the position from 1992 until 2002 and in that time Virgin became the most successful and profitable label of all time. Huge successes from the label at this time included The Spice Girls, The Verve, Massive Attack, Chemical Brothers and Meatloaf.

Whilst at the helm of Virgin, Paul set up a new record label, Innocent, and introduced acts such as Blue, Billie Piper and

Atomic Kitten onto the music scene.

For three years Paul was also the Chairman of the Brit Awards.

In 2002, Paul went on to set up a small independent label, Adventures in Music Management, with his wife, Katie Conroy, which the Christmas number 1 in 2003 with Michael Andrews ft. Gary Jules' *Mad World*.

Paul, who is now retired, lives in Gozo and has passed his passion for the music industry on to his daughter who now also works in the industry.



Paul with the Spice Girls in 1997.



Paul during his teaching practice placement at Handsworth Wood Secondary School.



LinkedIn is fast becoming the top destination for those seeking the next employment opportunity. In the digital age a strong online presence is just as important as a powerful CV. Follow our five simple steps and before you know it you will be a LinkedIn pro!

## USING LINKEDIN: 5 STEPS TO CAREER SUCCESS

### High Impact Headline

Your headline appears just below your name and will show when people search for you amongst a list of other contacts. Most users type their job title, but use this as a space to make yourself stand out from the crowd, for example 'Experienced sales professional looking to positively impact a new organisation'.

### Striking Summary

It isn't very British to brag about yourself, but this is your opportunity to let LinkedIn know how amazing you really are. If you find this hard, team up with a fellow colleague and work on each others profiles together. Use this summary to highlight your professional achievements, summarise your skills and abilities, and position yourself for your next job.

### Recommendations

Recommendations are a brilliant way to get your contacts to sing your praise. They show on your profile as mini references, and are a good way to get people interested in your abilities. If you have worked on a special project for someone get them to write you a recommendation, and don't be afraid to ask colleagues for recommendations as they move on to pastures new. You can also return the favour by writing recommendations back.

### Skills & Endorsements

What are you good at? List all the skills you believe you have and ask your contacts to endorse you for them. Employers will look for those who have highly endorsed skills on their profiles, so be sure to write down the skills that your colleagues would be prepared to praise you for. To get the best results, make it an exchange process and return the favour by endorsing your colleagues' skills as a thank you.

### Network, Network, Network

Don't forget LinkedIn is still a social network platform, so don't be afraid to network. Connect with former colleagues, or acquaintances you have made through work. Join professional groups on LinkedIn such as Newman University Alumni and Friends, where you can share ideas and establish worthwhile business connections.

Newman University is also active on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Follow us here:

- /NewmanAlumni
- @NewmanAlumni
- newmanunialumni



# Congratulations Class of 2017



#newman  
graduation



# 2017 HONORARY DEGREE AWARDS



Sian Massey-Ellis MBE

**S**ian Massey-Ellis is an English football and women's football referee who has refereed the game at all levels. She was appointed in 2009 to the Professional Game Match Officials (PGMO) which is the body responsible for training, selecting and managing match officials for Premier League and English Football League matches. Its Select Group, of which Sian is a member, includes the highest level of elite referees and assistant referees in this country. Sian has gone on to be involved in top-flight Premier League games on a regular basis as well as the UEFA Women's Champions League, UEFA Women's European Championships and FIFA Women's World Cup matches.

Sian Massey-Ellis was awarded an MBE in the 2017 New Year Honours list for services to football and she hopes her achievements can continue to help inspire girls to play football or get involved in the sport in other ways.

Sian is a graduate of Newman University, having achieved a First-Class Degree in BSc Sports Studies in 2007 and successfully completed a PGCE in 2008.

The Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science was conferred on Sian Massey-Ellis for her outstanding contribution to the advancement of women's sport and for her continuing involvement as a Physical Education teacher.

Turn to page 9 for an interview with Sian Massey-Ellis, taken at the opening of Newman's new 3G sports pitch



Marcia Shakespeare MBE

**M**arcia Shakespeare is a campaigner against gun violence and gangs; her teenage daughter was murdered in the New Year party shootings in Birmingham on 2nd January 2003. Marcia's daughter, Letisha Shakespeare (aged 17) and her friend Charlene Ellis (aged 18), were the innocent victims of gang violence. Four men were later convicted of murder and attempted murder at a high profile six-month trial in Leicester, which saw evidence from anonymous witnesses for the first time.

Soon after the trial, Marcia, together with Charlene's mother, led the Letisha and Charlene Education Awards scheme which was backed by a large number of organisations and which for many years helped almost 70 disadvantaged young people to

achieve their career goals. Marcia is the Director and founder of The Precious Trust which helps young women and girls who experience gang violence, violent crime and sexual exploitation. She has worked with a large number of young girls and women under the Health Choices and Decision Making programme which has equipped those affected with life skills.

Marcia Shakespeare was awarded an MBE in the 2017 New Year Honours for her inspirational services to law and order.

The Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on Marcia Shakespeare for her tireless campaign working with young people against gangs, gun and knife crimes.



# CONTINUE YOUR JOURNEY WITH NEWMAN UNIVERSITY...

## Thinking about Postgraduate study?

Newman University offers a fantastic portfolio for postgraduate study and continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities.



**10% DISCOUNT**

for Newman graduates enrolling on full Master's degree programmes

## Postgraduate Teacher Education

As a trainee teacher at Newman you will be immersed in a programme which will develop your ability to create, teach, and assess inspirational lessons that develop both core skills and a love of learning amongst your pupils.

We have full-time PGCE and School Direct programmes as entry routes into teaching; you will be able to pursue your passion at early years, primary and secondary level.

## Taught Higher Degrees

We have a number of subject areas offering Master's and Doctoral level study in the following areas:

- Business (MBA)
- Criminology
- Education
- History
- Human Sciences
- Humanities
- Psychology
- Psychotherapy
- Theology
- Work-Based Learning
- Youth and Community Work

## Continuing Professional Development

Newman University offers a range of CPD opportunities for professionals working in education:

- Bespoke non-accredited CPD/ Consultancy within a key range of educational themes and subject areas.
- National professional recognition via the Teaching and Learning Academy (TLA) for those working in teaching and non-teaching roles within education.
- Support networks for newly qualified teachers (NQTs) and recently qualified teachers (RQTs).

For more information please contact [fed@newman.ac.uk](mailto:fed@newman.ac.uk)



## Doctoral Study

At Newman, research is regarded as an integral part of our scholarly activities. Cutting-edge work is being undertaken across a wide range of academic and professional disciplines and is attracting national and international research funding. For a detailed list of research interests, and to find out how Newman could support your PhD, visit [www.newman.ac.uk/research](http://www.newman.ac.uk/research)

The Doctor of Education (EdD) programme is aimed at educational professionals and strives to place you at the leading edge of your professional field in terms of knowledge, awareness and understanding. The doctorate is for those who are eager to make substantial contributions to the development of educational knowledge in a broad range of settings.

# GET INVOLVED

## HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT NEWMAN UNIVERSITY

We hope that thousands more students will have the opportunity to study here at Newman University, just as you did. With your help we can work to ensure that they can achieve their full potential.

There are lots of ways you can get involved; supporting current students, volunteering and spreading the word to study with us. If you can help in any way please email [alumni@newman.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@newman.ac.uk)

## Careers advice and work placement opportunities

In this competitive employment market you could help our current students stay one step ahead by providing careers advice, work placements, job and volunteering opportunities.

## Provide a case study about your career

Case studies are used to give an insight into the career paths of our alumni. They can inspire and motivate our current students and graduates in their career choices.

## Inspire our students

Give a talk about your career to our current students, explaining your journey since leaving Newman University and how the skills you learnt from your course have helped you in your professional career.

## Employ our students and graduates

Let us know if you think you or the company you work for may be able to offer an employment opportunity to a Newman graduate. We will post details of your vacancy on our job boards.

## Work placements

Work placements give students a real insight into commercial environments and help them to develop essential skills to enhance their employability. What's more, our students could be a valuable asset to your company. Could your business offer a work placement to one or more of our students?

## Become a BSEEN Mentor

Newman University seeks mentors who are keen to share their expertise and knowledge, guiding fledgling business owners to help them feel inspired and confident to succeed.



## OPEN DAY VOLUNTEERS

We are always looking for willing graduates to help us showcase Newman University at our open days. If you'd like to talk to prospective students and their families about your time at Newman, and how it has shaped your life, then please get in touch.

Our open days are always a fun and busy day, and a perfect opportunity for you to keep involved in our Newman community. Going above and beyond will not only look good on your CV, but it will also give you an opportunity to give back to the University and inspire the next generation of Newman students.



# Newman Health & Wellbeing

In 2016, Newman University launched a new wellbeing service for the community: Newman Health & Wellbeing. Currently offering counselling & psychotherapy, wellbeing training and youth outreach, the service seeks to deliver high-quality, professionally-led and cost-effective services.

“Newman Health & Wellbeing exists to improve the quality of life for individuals and to make a positive contribution to the communities and organisations to which they belong.”

**Melanie Glass**  
Development and  
Delivery Manager

“Our counselling service brings the skills of practitioners, tutors and trainee practitioners together to deliver a professional counselling service at an affordable rate.”

**Colette Lewis**  
Clinical  
Manager

**10% DISCOUNT**  
is available to alumni  
on Newman Health  
& Wellbeing  
counselling  
services

The counselling and psychotherapy service for children works with children as young as three with a wide range of individual emotional, psychological and social stressors. Sessions can either be undertaken within a school setting or at our own building on the Newman University campus, which has a suite of therapy rooms including a dedicated child therapy room.

The counselling and Psychotherapy service for adults offers appointments Monday to Friday, with late evening appointments available. Sessions can be undertaken either within the workplace or at our own building.

Our workshops and conferences service aims to improve the health and wellbeing of employees, community groups and others

through the provision of a range of wellbeing workshops and conferences. Topics include stress awareness, mindfulness, and conflict management — as well as bespoke packages.

Reachout is our innovative street-based youth work project. It seeks to engage socially-excluded young people (aged 11-19) from Bartley Green in public spaces where they gather. Youth &

Community students launched the project in May 2017 in partnership with a Birmingham-based charity — Youthwork Europe.

To find out more about what we offer please get in touch with Melanie Glass (Development and Delivery Manager) on **0121 476 1181 ext. 2322** or **m.glass@newman.ac.uk**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2018...

February  
**13**

### 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FOUNDATION DAY MASS

Tuesday 13 February

The annual Foundation Day Mass honouring the life of our Patron, the Blessed John Henry Newman will have added significance as the Vice Chancellor opens the celebrations and we formally begin our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary festivities. Mass will take place in St Mary's Chapel and will be followed by a buffet reception in the main atrium.

October  
**9**

### NEWMAN FEAST DAY St Chad's Cathedral

Tuesday 9 October

2018's Newman Feast Day will have a special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary flavour and will be opened up to staff, students, alumni and friends of the University. More information about this special anniversary event will be available on the University website in the new year.

February  
**24**

### THE CATHEDRALS GROUP CHOIRS FESTIVAL

Saturday 24 February

As part of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, 2018's festival is hosted by Birmingham's Newman University and will feature performances by some of the country's best university choirs. Alongside performances by each of the individual choirs, this year's festival will include a stirring massed choir performance of Berlioz's epic requiem mass: *Grande Messe des Morts*. Taking place at Birmingham's Symphony Hall this promises to be a joyful and uplifting event for everyone to enjoy.

### THE BIG ALUMNI REUNION

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August

If you only come to one event in 2018 on campus make sure it's this one! 50 years of graduates, one big reunion. Come and join us for this one-off celebration. Share memories, reminisce and see how the campus has changed and developed. It's a great opportunity to come back to Newman and the city of Birmingham. There's even a chance to stay in the halls of residence one more time! A full programme of activities will be announced shortly on the Alumni website.

For more information about each of the events above, including information of how to book a place please visit **[www.newman.ac.uk/50years](http://www.newman.ac.uk/50years)**



We hope you enjoyed the latest edition of Engage magazine. This is your magazine and we welcome your thoughts on what we could include in future editions.

#### FOR THE NEXT EDITION WE WOULD LIKE YOUR INPUT PLEASE:

**Where are you now?** Send us a short paragraph updating us about where you are working and what you are doing since you left Newman. If you have any messages for your fellow alumni, send them our way and we can share them in the next magazine.

**Nostalgia** — Do you have fond memories of your time at Newman? If so, we would love to hear about them. If you have any old photographs or memorabilia we would be delighted to add these to our growing heritage collection.

**News** — Have you had a successful professional achievement, or done something significant that you'd like the Alumni Association, your peers and other alumni to know about? Get in touch so we can share your news with your fellow alumni.

Once again, this is your magazine. If you would like to contribute by writing a piece for the next edition of Engage please email **[alumni@newman.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@newman.ac.uk)**



# Coming soon...

## NEWMAN TURNS 50!

There have been a lot of exciting developments at Newman University over recent years, with many more on the way as we look ahead to our 50th anniversary celebrations in 2018. We can't wait to celebrate this important milestone with our alumni community.

**50<sup>TH</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY

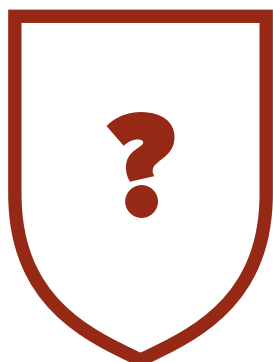
**A**s a member of our global alumni community of over 20,000 graduates, we are sure that you all have great stories and anecdotes about the University. Whether you graduated recently, or studied with us when we were Newman College, our graduates are an integral part

of the institution's history, and we are keen to keep our links with you and your cohorts of fellow alumni.

If you want to receive information from the Alumni Association we need to have all of your up-to-date contact details, so that you don't miss out on any of the

50th anniversary news and invitations. If any of your friends or family studied at Newman please make them aware of our plans for 2018 and ensure that they too update their details with us.

Update your details online at [www.newman.ac.uk/alumni-update](http://www.newman.ac.uk/alumni-update)



### NEW LOOK NEWMAN

**T**o coincide with our golden anniversary, the University will be having an exciting re-brand, moving to a more traditional style and corporate identity. Look out for a new website and logo at the start of next year.



### NEXT EDITION OF ENGAGE

**W**atch out for the next edition of Engage in summer 2018, which will be a special issue celebrating Newman's 50th anniversary; in the interim, the alumni website give you more details about events and activities that you are welcome to attend.

[www.newman.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.newman.ac.uk/alumni)

