

# Bi-Monthly Newsletter

## NEWMAN STUDENTS' UNION

November - December 2024



STUDENT VOLUNTEERS PERFORMING AT SANTA'S GROTTO

### A word from your SU Team

Hello and welcome to the second newsletter of the 24-25 Academic Year.

This newsletter aims to outline some of the highlights that the Union and students have been up to over the past couple of months. We have had a busy and productive few months.

Time goes by quickly at Newman Students' Union, and so we want to reflect on what has been achieved over these past couple of months to help keep ourselves accountable and celebrate your wins!

As we head into a new semester we would also like to look forward. We are looking forward to continue supporting initiatives which are important to you. If there is something you are interested in supporting or promoting, please reach out to us, remember your Union is here for you.

Don't forget, our Advice Service is here to support you with independent academic advice, support and guidance.

#### In this newsletter you can expect:

What's New in Your Union. p.2

Voice Update. p.2

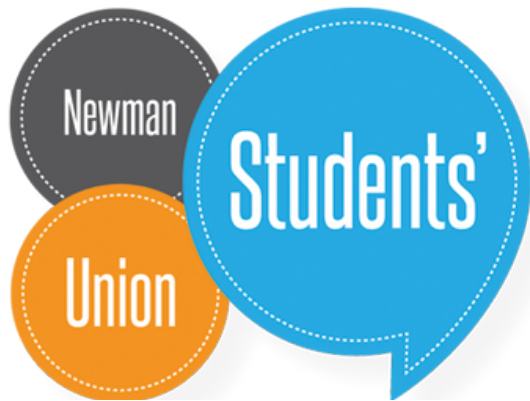
Community and Wellbeing Updates. p.3

Jolly Jumper Day. p.3

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Stories of Impact: World Diabetes Day. p.4

➤ VOICE. ➤ SUPPORT. ➤ COMMUNITY. ➤ WELLBEING.



## What's New? Student Council & Your Ideas.

Your Student Council is made up of your elected Part-Time Officers, Officer Trustees and Faculty Reps. They have been working on Your Ideas submitted so far this year, debating and discussing best steps and creating plans of action.

We are strongest when we have the best ideas and views from across the Newman community. By submitting your ideas for change through the Student Council and the Voice and Support and Community and Wellbeing Committees you can enhance your experience at university for yourself and your peers.

The Your Ideas section of the website is a direct and effective way to get your voice heard and you can use it as many times as you like during your studies - we know that your needs and wants change year on year, so use Your Ideas to reflect the current issues you are facing and let us know what it is you care about. So don't hold back, let us know what you want us to do!

If you want to submit an idea, make sure you tell people so they can vote for it. For more information and to submit Your Idea, visit: [newmansu.org/yourvoice/yourideas/](http://newmansu.org/yourvoice/yourideas/)



### Voice

Your Student Staff Consultative Committees (SSCCs) have met for semester one. During these SSCCs your Course Reps have represented you, reporting your feedback to help ensure your experience at University is collaborative and fulfilling.

If you have feedback on your course, on anything and everything from lecture delivery, to content queries, please pass on your feedback to your Course Rep.

Need to know who your Course Rep is?  
Contact Voice and Governance  
Co-ordinator, Charlotte:  
[ONEI412@newman.ac.uk](mailto:ONEI412@newman.ac.uk)

### A word from Reece

As well as being your elected LGBTQ+ Officer, Reece is a Faculty Rep for the School of Social Sciences, here is what they say about academic representation over the first semester:

"Within the first semester SSCCs have taken place meaning that staff and students had the opportunity to voice their concerns and consider changes that could be made to course or things to do more. The course reps I've had the pleasure to work with this first semester gave great feedback showing that they are eager to make a change and ensure the student bodies voice are heard. I have then after the meeting taken a few concerns to the SU and they are now underway to be resolved in the best way possible. I am looking forward to continuing the work we have started and hopefully get even more feedback in the next few meetings so that in the academic year 25/26 every course can be the best it can be for all students."

## Community and Wellbeing



### Santa's Grotto

Santa visited Newman on 13th December! Enlisting the help of student volunteers, we welcomed your children and children from the local community to visit Santa's Grotto and talk about what they wanted for Christmas, grab a goodie bag and enjoy some games and activities in the Students' Union. We are so happy you enjoyed this event and have more family & child friendly events to come in the new year!



### Pyjama Party

Societies took over Senses Lounge and Bistro 32 to host their Pyjama Party! The Pyjama Party was a fantastic, laid back evening, filled with loads of activities including board games and pool; music and singing; as well as painting and drawing. We hope you had an opportunity to check out some of the societies.

To join a society, visit:  
[newmansu.org/groups/societies/](http://newmansu.org/groups/societies/)

## Spotlight on Community



### Time Capsule

Your Student Council joined with teams from across Birmingham Newman University for a time capsule burial ceremony. This time capsule serves as a snapshot of our Newman community as it is now. In 100 years, the Newman community will have a chance to revisit us through letters and items from across the university, including a letter from your Officer Trustees, Gemma and Cloudy. The letter details topics and issues which you've told us are important to you now, and outlines a hope for change.

The burial site will be noted by a plaque. Keep an eye out when you're visiting the newly refurbished quad to see if you can spot it!



### Society Showcase: Music & Performance

Music & Performance Society have had a fantastic semester. They host twice weekly, dynamic and inclusive meetings for those interested in music at all levels. The society hosted a fantastic Open Mic Xmas Night event to close off the semester! Interested in practicing or learning to play an instrument? Meet like-minded students by joining Music & Performance Society!



### Raising and Giving (RaG)

This December you raised £325.18 for Birmingham Children's Hospital during Jolly Jumper Day! This fantastic student-led RaG initiative was launched by Occupational Therapy Student, Klaudia. Thank you for joining us to play games and support! We were moved by the stories you shared with us about why Birmingham Children's Hospital is important to you and your family.

### A Few Notes To Remember

- We have an open door policy (we don't even have doors) and you can find us Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm.
- If you want to guarantee time to talk with either Cloudy or Gemma, please book an appointment.
- We are mostly part-time, student volunteers who want to make sure you get the most out of your university experience.
- Want to make changes with your Union? Get in touch.



## Stories of impact: Raising awareness during World Diabetes Day: How your Union can support you.

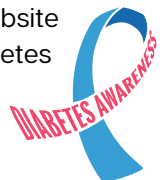
During World Diabetes Day, on the 14th November, your Union held an event to raise awareness of Type 1 (T1D) and Type 2 (T2D) Diabetes, their symptomatology and what to do if you have concerns about Diabetes.

*“As a parent of a T1D teenager, raising awareness of diabetes is a cause close to my heart”*  
- Gemma Bowen

With support and collaboration from Chris Jones, Senior Lecturer in Adult Nursing as well as Hannah and Jaye, Volunteers from Diabetes UK, the event helped bring focus on how those with (or who care for someone with) long term-health conditions can be supported while at university.

We spoke to some students with T1D during this event, who were not aware of this at the time. If you have a long-term health condition, like Diabetes, or care for someone who does, your Union can support you to access extensions, mitigating circumstances and other advice and support while at University.

Your Students' Union President, Gemma has recorded a short video on what it is like being a student and a parent carer. Featuring Voice and Advice Co-ordinator, Zoe Harrison, this video includes examples of some of the ways Newman Students' Union can support you. If you would like to watch the video it is available on our website through the link below, or click on the Diabetes Awareness ribbon.



A message from Gemma:

*“I just want you to know that if you, or someone you are caring for has Diabetes, or any other long term health condition, I'm here for you.”*

Thanks to everyone who helped make this event happen.

Watch the video here:

[newmansu.org/worlddiabetesday](http://newmansu.org/worlddiabetesday)

If you are interested in launching an initiative, or holding an event for a cause important to you, contact your Students' Union Vice-President, Cloudy: [su-vice-president@newman.ac.uk](mailto:su-vice-president@newman.ac.uk)

*Thank you for reading!*

Have a story you think should be featured here or would you like to be an editor on this newsletter?  
Contact Cloudy, your Students' Union Vice-President: [su-vice-president@newman.ac.uk](mailto:su-vice-president@newman.ac.uk)