



The Friends of The College at Newman's Littlemore

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Dear Friends,

Greetings from Littlemore where we are always delighted to welcome pilgrims and visitors to Newman's College. The purposes of their visits are manifold. Some come for Newman studies and seminars, some have an historical interest, some come on a pilgrimage to give thanks for the spiritual support and inspiration they receive on their journey of faith through the example and prayers of Blessed John Henry Newman and to ask for his guidance, while others find The College to be a place of peace and tranquillity in the middle of a busy world. One of our Friends wrote the following account after a two weeks' stay:

THE NEWMAN EXPERIENCE

My wife and I have been visiting Newman's College in Littlemore for some five years on a regular basis. Newman has been an integral part of my spiritual life for almost thirty years; reading about his life, work and legacy was instrumental in my own conversion to Catholicism in 1997. My wife, who is a 'cradle Catholic', has found her spiritual life enriched by Newman in a way unimaginable to her before encountering him. Now living abroad, where Newman's spirituality is less known and palpable than in England, we see it as a great blessing and a huge privilege to be able to spend time in the place, where Newman made the key decision of his life.



Newman's College is a place of retirement and prayer, where we feel we can continue our own spiritual search in a similar way to which Newman did in the 1840's. We would recommend that everyone should give the 'Newman Experience' a try.

'BIRTHDAY PARTY' AND OTHER EVENTS IN THE FUTURE

On Wednesday, 21st February 2018, we will be celebrating John Henry Newman's birthday with an evening event of words and music. We are delighted that Fr Guy Nicholls of the Birmingham Oratory has agreed to give a talk on ***Cardinal Newman's View of Beauty***. Father Guy is presently preparing to publish a book on Cardinal Newman's aesthetics entitled *Unearthly Beauty*.

The talk will be followed by a performance from a local String Quartet of some movements from two of Newman's favourite composers, Mozart and Beethoven.

More details about this event, the venue, the speaker and the musicians are available on the enclosed invitation. We hope you will be able to join us!



The Cardinal's viola which he used while at Oxford playing 'tenor' in string quartets. (Photo by kind permission of the Birmingham Oratory)

We enclose the **events list for 2018** and we hope that you will be able to join us for all or some of them and bring some friends along with you.

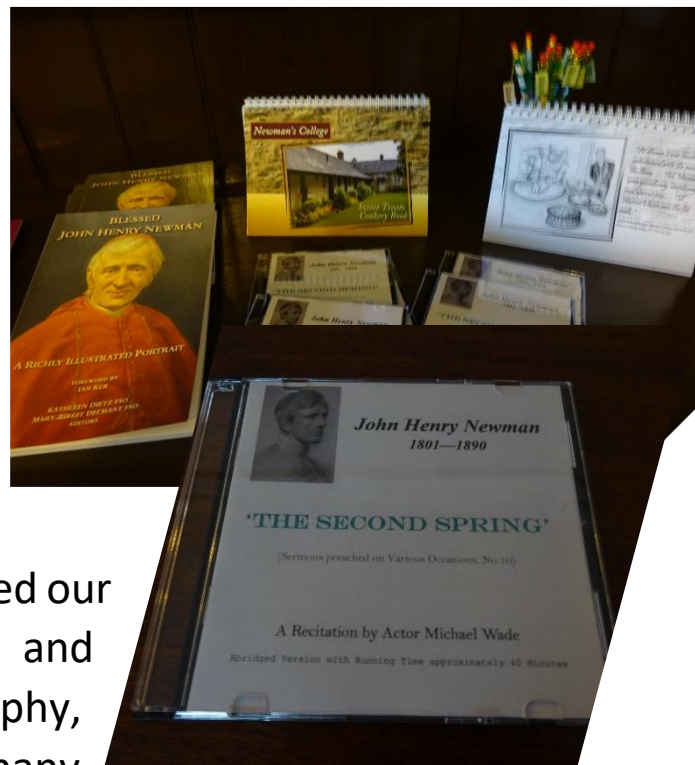
As we write, we are preparing an exhibition about The College which we are planning to display at the next **Oxford Open Doors weekend** which takes place during the second weekend of September each year.

LOOKING BACK



The Garden Party 2017 was a happy occasion, and those who made their way to the College on a bright summer's day enjoyed their time in the lovely College gardens. The next **Garden Party** will be on **Saturday, 9th June 2018**.

Following our successful event in February 2016, when the Actor Michael Wade recited **The Second Spring Sermon**, a CD has been produced containing an abridged version of it together with explanatory notes. It is now being sold in the College library.



WEBSITE

A good number of students have consulted our specialized Newman libraries in Rome and Littlemore while the online bibliography, collected by our community over many years, is of great interest to Newman friends and scholars. During the summer of 2017, with the help of the Roman Newman Centre, the website was redesigned to improve the accessibility of the information available. A pilgrim to The College wrote:

The Sisters of The Work, whose job it is to run The College, always provide a friendly welcome and add valued additional support to pilgrims who are searching to find their way in the Faith and in the world. The webpage of the International Centre of Newman Friends:

www.newmanfriendsinternational.org offers excellent online resources with links to Newman's works, prayers and devotions.

GRATITUDE

Last but not least, we want to thank you for supporting us, with your prayers, your advice and your hands-on help as well as with your financial contributions. We are very much aware that without you this historic and spiritually significant place would not be able to thrive.

We are pleased to tell you that The Friends have raised nearly £ 6,500 during the past year and most of this money was Gift Aided. We are always happy to welcome new Friends. As a result of your generosity we were able to pay for the much-needed decoration of gutters, pipes, walls and woodwork and to acquire a colour photocopier and a new boiler for one of the cottages.



The snow and winds in recent months have caused damage to the old College roof and we are now collecting estimates for the roof repair and other maintenance work around The College. Once the warmer weather arrives, the painters will be decorating the College windows at an estimated cost in the region of £2,200.

Littlemore is a hidden gem and while people come from as far as Australia and the USA to visit The College, some of your neighbours and friends might have never heard about us. Please feel free to share information about Newman's College with other people and to invite them to visit us and to take part in our events.

In closing, we assure you that we continue to keep you, your families and your intentions in our prayers. All our Friends are remembered specially in a monthly Mass celebrated in the Newman College chapel.

Sincerely,

Sr. Bianca Feuerstein FSO