

Miss Joyce Julia Green

Joyce Julia Green was born in Birmingham, Warwickshire on 6th of July 1931. Growing up she lived with her mother (maiden name Knight), father and younger sister near Small Heath Park. After a heavy raid during WWII her father insisted the family move to Shirley. Her father was an office worker for Birmingham Corp (transport) at Yardley Wood depot.

Newman Brothers – Secretary

Miss Green joined Newman Brothers in 1949, when she was 18. Previously she had worked for Mr. Jones of Summer Row, who produced for Newman Brothers inner tubes for caskets. Before joining she would visit for afternoon tea at the insistence of her boss 'see if you can get us an order'. She also joined the staff including Horace Newman, on a work outing to Blackpool. When her boss Mr. Jones had a heart attack and Miss Regan (secretary) left, Miss Green went to work for Newman Bros. in the office.

Managing Newman Brothers

Miss Green was made Company Secretary by Horace Newman's cousins, the Whittingtons when still 'quite young.'

The Newman Brothers were eventually succeeded as directors by Charles Floyd and John Kellet, who rebuilt the product range. In 1976 when both died, Miss Green held a third of the shares and began managing the factory.

Owner Director

In 1988 travelling salesman and director Cyril Salt died and Holford Pritchard Davies's shares were transferred to Miss Green. From 1997 onwards Miss Green started to wind down the business. She remained the owner of the factory until she officially closed it in 1999. She eventually retired to Devon where her sister lived. Joyce Green died in Devon in 2009. Miss Green's association with Newman Brothers spanned fifty years. From office secretary, to Company Secretary, Financial Director and Owner Director. In March 2003 Advantage West Midlands bought the factory in partnership with Birmingham Conservation Trust, planning to turn it into a museum. It finally opened as a museum in 2014 when enough funding was secured.



Miss Dorothy 'Dolly' Dunsby

Dolly was born on 12th June 1901. She worked at Newman Bros. for sixty years, starting at the age of 14 and retiring at 75. Dolly managed the Warehouse and eventually the works, giving out the day's jobs to the polishers. Initially when the Warehouse manager job became available it wasn't offered to Dolly, even though she had worked for Newman Bros. for thirty years. She felt so strongly that 'she fought her corner' with the boss Horace Newmans in a time when women wouldn't have crossed the line. She did eventually get the job. She was described by a colleague as 'like a mother, sister, aunty. All things to everybody and she was a real, a really wonderful person.'

She lived with her brother and never married. She was the last person to receive a gold watch upon completing fifty years at Newman Bros. as was the company's tradition. In the sixties Dolly led strike action with Alice Overton, Mrs. Peat and other Newman Bros. ladies after a disagreement with Kellet and Floyd about tea break duration. After a few days they were convinced to come back to work when Kellet and Floyd visited Mrs. Overton who lived a few roads away. Upon retiring (after a bout of flu at Christmas) she received a small yearly pension from Newman Bros. for 25 years.

Dolly's one ambition was to visit Scotland. Five years after she left Newman Brothers, aged 80, the company paid for a holiday in the Highlands with her brother, Charlie. While Dolly hadn't always been the easiest employee, this is testament to how much they really valued her.

