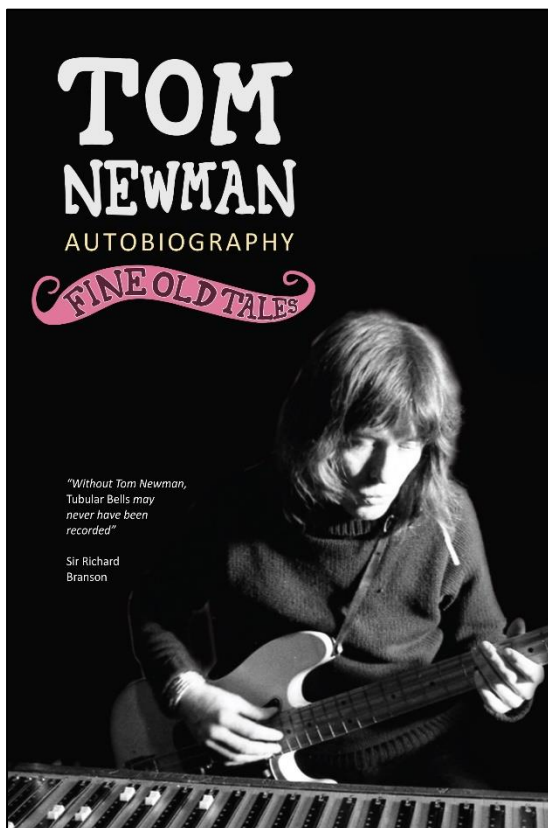


TOM NEWMAN

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Fifty years after the release of his debut solo album, the Virgin Records co-founder releases his extraordinary memoirs.

“Without Tom Newman, Mike Oldfield’s Tubular Bells may never have been recorded. Without Tubular Bells it is quite conceivable that the Virgin Group may never have got off the ground.” (Sir Richard Branson)



Tom Newman’s brutally honest life story begins with pre-school memories, through teenage dreams of being a rock star and ultimately to becoming best known as a talented music producer. Tom is a renowned English record producer and musician, most celebrated for his work on Mike Oldfield’s groundbreaking *Tubular Bells*. Originally a guitarist in 1960s bands like The Tomcats and July, Newman shifted into music production after a fateful introduction to Richard Branson, going on to play a pivotal role in founding Virgin Records. His knack for capturing deeply emotive performances—despite having little formal technical training—became a defining hallmark of his production style.

PUBLICATION DETAILS

- Hardback (232 pages) ISBN 978-1-9191670-0-8 & eBook
- Publication Date: 26th September, 2025
- Publisher: Dark Star Magazine www.mikeoldfield.org
- Press Pack: www.mikeoldfield.org/TNM (access code via email)

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THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT TOM NEWMAN

- **John Wayne** was a guest at Tom's wedding. **Sophia Loren** was due to attend, but had a last-minute filming clash.
- Tom was at the **Beatles' final concert** on the Apple building rooftop (*photo, right*)
- **Sir Tom Jones** was once fired by Tom Newman.
- **Sir Richard Branson** was persuaded by Tom to open a recording studio and start **Virgin Records**.
- Tom was the first person to see the potential in Mike Oldfield's ***Tubular Bells*** demo.
- "Without **Guinness**, there would be no *Tubular Bells*", says Tom, as it took a few pints of the black stuff to get Mike Oldfield to loosen up enough to share his ideas.
- **Dave Gilmour** used to play regular impromptu gigs with Tom at the Warwick Castle pub in Little Venice. *Photo: Tom at home on the Isle of Wight with one of Dave Gilmour's guitars, July 2025.*
- Tom recorded a single with the **Great Train Robbers**, although it was never released.
- **Eric Idle**, **Peter Cook** and **Dudley Moore** would often meet Tom for a pint and a chat.
- **Sir Billy Connolly** shared an entire Virgin flight to LA with Tom at the onboard bar.
- When working on *Tubular Bells II* in LA, Tom joined a private jam session with **Jeff Lynne**, **Stuart Copeland** and **Mike Oldfield**.
- Tom has owned and run many extremely unusual **recording studios**; on a canal boat, in a horsebox and on an ex-Navy minesweeper.
- The **Pirates for Peace** charity was setup by Tom to help Catholic and Protestant children in Northern Ireland collaborate on musical projects.
- His band **July's album** became one of the most sought-after collectible psychedelic pop records, with copies selling for thousands of pounds.

