

Manor Royal timeline

Crawley, with its rich history, has always been associated with trade and industry even before it was designated as one of the original new towns. It was from 1946 that saw the most remarkable rise of Crawley as a town and economic driver in the south-east. From the very beginning Manor Royal was always destined to play a key role in the development of Crawley. The following timeline presents key milestones in the history of Manor Royal.



- 1946 Parliament announces that Crawley will become a New Town
- 1947 Crawley New Town designation order is made
- 1948 Crawley New Town masterplan is unveiled
- 1949 WC Youngmans, maker of industrial trucks and builders' plant, leases 10 acre site to become an original occupier



- 1950 In January, Princess Elizabeth (now Queen Elizabeth II) names Manor Royal road and officially opens 'Crawley Industrial Area'. A.P.V. a major supplier of processing equipment, leases a site bringing around 1,500 families to Crawley over three stages up to 1956
- 1951 Crawley's population reaches 7,000
- 1953 Smithkline Beecham, now Glaxo Smith Kline, opens factory in Crawley
- 1954 W. Edwards, makers of vacuum pumps and later to become a subsidiary of BOC plc, opens a 9.5 acre site employing 300 people. Gatwick Airport is expanded for continental services
- 1956 Crawley's population reaches 30,000. Manufacturing (old and new) accounts for 61% of work, building and civil engineering 18% with non-industrial concerns only 21%



- 1958 Vent-Axia moves in. Queen Elizabeth II opens the new Gatwick Airport and returns to officially open Manor Royal Industrial Estate
- 1961 Mullard Equipment Ltd (M.E.L.), a division of the Phillips Group, moves to a large site bounded by London Road and Manor Royal. At its peak in the 1970s it would employ 2,250 people
- 1962 Manor Royal is now well-established and growing. 15,000 employed in 79 factories occupying just over 3,000,000 sq ft of space. Manufacture accounts for 60% of work. The rise of Gatwick Airport and service trades now accounts for 34%



- 1963 Moving to the area in 1962, Building and Civil Engineering open its new office building the tallest in Crawley at the time
- 1965 A.P.V. leases more land in Manor Royal and accounts for an eighth of all new factory space
- 1971 Crawley's population reaches 67,608. Services employ 53.5% of workers, manufacturing 46%. 15,000 people now commute to Crawley for work from other areas, a net inflow of 10,000
- 1973 Demand for warehousing and storage exceeds demand for factories, partly as a result of the growth of Gatwick Airport and partly as a result of the demands for regional distribution from Crawley



- 1974 Crawley Urban District Council becomes Crawley Borough Council
- 1978 Astral Towers, is given planning permission
- 1981 Crawley's population reaches 73,081. Of the 63,610 jobs on offer in Crawley 67% are now in service trades. Net inflow of workers has doubled to 20,120. Astral Towers becomes a prominent feature
- 1982 Approval for a second terminal for Gatwick Airport
- 1985 Rediffusion Simulation (formerly Redifon, now Thales) occupies sites in Crompton Way, Kelvin Way, Gatwick Road and Manor Royal, establishing itself as one of Crawley's major employers



- 1987 County Oak Retail Park given planning consent to be built. Texas, Allied Carpets, Curry's Superstore the first to move-in in 1988/9
- 1991 Crawley's population reaches 97,428
- 1992 Pasta Reale, the UK's largest manufacturer of fresh pasta, builds new premises on Fleming Way
- 1993 CGG Veritas, a world leading geophysical company, makes Manor Royal its UK Centre
- 1994 Planning permission is granted for Crawley Business Quarter, Fleming Way
- 1997 Virgin Atlantic move into The Office on the Crawley Business Quarter
- 1998 Planning permission granted for City Place



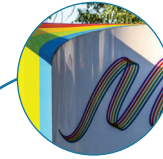
- 1999 Virgin Atlantic purchases former Upjohn Pharmaceuticals site on Fleming Way to create global training centre, The Base
- 2000 Planning permission granted for Pegasus Place, Gatwick Road
- 2001 Crawley's population reaches 99,744
- 2003 Fastway, Crawley's rapid transport bus service, begins operation improving access to Manor Royal and surrounding areas
- 2004 Basepoint Business and Innovation Centre officially opens
- 2005 Planning permission granted for Crawley VW garage, Gatwick Road
- 2009 Thales UK officially opens new £100m facility on the corner of Manor Royal and London Road



- 2010 Crawley's population estimated as 102,000. On the Crawley Business Quarter the Premier Inn Hotel opens and Doosan Babcock Energy move into Brooke House. Manor Royal masterplan is launched
- 2011 Principle Park – largest land purchases in the SE. The 30 acre former GSK site bought to accommodate Europe's largest data centre for Digital Reality
- 2013 Tesco.com opens large distribution centre
- 2014 Crawley's Brook People's Park opened – five acre site that the MR BID reclaimed and turned into an award-winning park
- 2015 Welland Medical opened a state-of-the-art R&D manufacturing facility
- 2016 VHQ – Virgin Atlantic Headquarters opened
- 2016 Acorn Retail Park – development opened
- 2016 D F Warehousing moves into new 39,000sq ft warehouse
- 2016 Gateway 3 completed with the super-sized 'M' synonymous with the Manor Royal brand.



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- 2017 The Terrace Pocket Park was opened, creating a peaceful outdoor 'pocket park'
- 2017 County Oak Retail Park was extended to accommodate Next at Home with a Costa Coffee. Boots and B&M
- 2018 Manor Royal BID was re-elected for another 5 year term with a significant increase in 'yes' voters



- 2018 Elekta, at MR since 1972, moves its HQ into Cornerstone – centre of excellence
- 2018 Boeing open new £20m training building for four simulators bringing total they have at MR to 11 – largest Boeing campus outside of US
- 2018 Gatwick Park – planning granted to build 200,000 sq ft grade A campus
- 2019 Gateway 1 completed making MR more welcoming and attractive to visitors by creating a better sense of arrival.
- 2019 Manor Royal launch digital signage
- 2019 L3 Harris open new pilot training centre and flight simulator production facility
- 2019 CAE open new commercial pilot training centre



Timeline of world events

- 1945 End of WW2
- 1946 National Health Service is launched
- 1952 Reign of Queen Elizabeth II begins

- 1953 Watson and Crick publish their discovery of the structure of DNA
- 1963 JFK assassinated
- 1964 Labour wins general election with Harold Wilson as PM

- 1966 England win world cup
- 1967 The Beatles release Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band
- 1969 Man lands on the moon

- 1971 Decimised currency replaces 'pounds, shillings and pence'
- 1977 Elvis dies
- Star Wars 'A New Hope' released
- 1979 Margaret Thatcher becomes PM

- 1981 Charles and Diana get married
- 1982 Falklands War
- E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial released
- 1984 12-month 'miners' strike' over pit closures begins
- Virgin Atlantic launches

- 1985 Live Aid concerts
- 1989 Berlin Wall comes down
- Tim Berners-Lee invents World Wide Web

- 1990 Gazza cries at Italia 90 world cup
- John Major becomes PM
- 1993 Channel 4 launches
- 1997 Tony Blair becomes PM
- Princess Diana killed in Paris car crash

- 2000 Global stock markets tumble as the 'dotcom bubble' bursts
- 2003 England win rugby world cup
- 2004 Facebook is launched

- 2007 Apple launch the iPhone
- Start of global financial crisis
- 2008 Britain falls into recession
- Barrack Obama becomes US President
- 2011 Prince William marries Kate Middleton

- 2012 London host Olympic games
- 2013 Nelson Mandela dies
- 2016 UK narrowly voted to leave the EU
- Donald Trump becomes US President