

Up and Atom! Manchester Firsts.

Manchester, in the last years of the eighteenth century and the first years of the nineteenth century, provided for the world a model of the emerging industrial society. Manchester for a period of years, led the world into the modern age, it is also the region where:

- The first public library, Chethams Library, was built in 1653, a bequest from wealthy merchant Henry Chetham.
- The first working canal, The Bridgewater canal, was engineered in 1761.
- The first public bus service ran from Manchester to Salford in 1824.
- The first passenger railway station was built in 1830 on Liverpool Road, Castlefield, Manchester.
- The first meeting of the TUC was held in 1868 in the Mechanics Institute.
- The first professional football league was set up in 1888 in the Royal Hotel, Piccadilly, Manchester.
- The first Marks and Spencer store, despite a stall in Leeds, opened in Stretford Road, Hulme, Manchester, in 1894.
- The first meeting between Mr Rolls and Mr Royce occurred in 1904 at the Crowne Plaza, Manchester – The Midland Hotel as it is today.
- The first British plane was designed and flown by A V Roe in 1908. And in 1919 Alcock and Brown both Manchester Central High School students were the first to fly the Atlantic Ocean non-stop.
- The first atom was split by Ernest Rutherford working at Manchester University in 1919.
- The first and only time that the crowd at an English football club match has exceeded 84,000. It was at Maine Road, home of Manchester City in 1934.
- The first commercial computer was developed in 1948 at Manchester University by professors Tom Kilburn and Fred Williams.

- Manchester United was the first English football team to win the European Cup in 1968 and the first English club to twice achieve the FA Cup and the Championship in the same year 1993 – 94 and 1995 – 96.
- The first test tube baby was born at Oldham General Hospital in 1978.