

Timeline

Year	Event
1836	John Lewis born in Shepton Mallet
1856	John Lewis in London working for Peter Robinson
1864	John Lewis opens a shop in Oxford St
1884	John Lewis marries Eliza Baker
1885	Spedan Lewis born
1887	Oswald Lewis born
1896	Major rebuild of the now much bigger John Lewis shop
1903	John Lewis in prison for contempt
1904	Spedan joins the business (given a quarter share in 1906)
1905	Oswald joins the business (given a quarter share in 1908) John Lewis buys Peter Jones
1909	Oswald leaves the business
1910	Spedan finalises his Partnership plan
1911	John Lewis 'loses' a libel case with his landlord
1914	Spedan chairman of PJ but must still work at Oxford St
1916	Spedan swaps his quarter share of JL for sole control of PJ Oswald returns to JL
1918	The first Gazette
1919	The first council meeting
1920	The Partnership begins: everyone at PJ is a Partner, first profit sharing JL staff strike over pay and conditions
1921–2	PJ in acute financial difficulty; no Bonus until 1924–5
1923	Spedan marries Beatrice Hunter
1924	John Lewis injects cash into PJ
1925	First use of the Never Knowingly Undersold slogan
1925–9	Four successive years with a Bonus of 20% or above
1926	Spedan buys Oswald's share of the John Lewis business Michael Watkins joins the Partnership
1927	The Odney club formed; Bernard Miller joins the Partnership
1928	John Lewis dies and Spedan combines the businesses First Partnership constitution published Spedan acquires TJ Harries in Oxford St, which becomes the 'east' house
1929	Formation of the Partnership after signing of the first trust settlement
1931	Pay cut for all but the lowest paid
1933–4	Four department stores acquired
1934	Last double-figure Bonus for 26 years
1935	Bonus of 9%, only given to those earning £400 or less
1936	DH Evans acquired to complete the 'west' house
1937	New Peter Jones building completed Waitrose bought – ten shops with sales of £167,000
1938	Pay cut
1939	'Deferred' pay introduced at the outbreak of war

TIMELINE

- 1940 SPS chain of fifteen shops bought
John Lewis Oxford St, Knight & Lee and Tyrrell & Green bombed
- 1941 Non-contributory pension scheme introduced
- 1945 Five elected board members introduced
- 1946 First Bonus for nine years
- 1947 First branch Chronicles published
- 1948 *Partnership For All* published
- 1949 Branches opened in South Africa (closed 1954)
- 1950 Second trust settlement
Oswald Lewis returns to the business part-time
- 1952 Pay cut
- 1953 Acquisition of Bainbridges and Heelas
Beatrice Lewis dies
- 1954 *Fairer Shares* published
- 1955 Spedan retires, succeeded by Bernard Miller
First purpose-built Waitrose supermarket opened
- 1960 Oxford St rebuild complete
- 1962 Stevenage warehouse opens for department stores
Oswald Lewis retires
- 1963 Spedan dies
- 1964 Five-day working week begins in John Lewis
- 1965 First part-cash Bonus
Brownsea Castle opens as a holiday centre
- 1970 First wholly cash Bonus
- 1972 Peter Lewis succeeds Bernard Miller as Chairman
Bracknell head office and warehouse opens fully for Waitrose
- 1974–9 Electronic POS systems installed throughout John Lewis
- 1976 First shopping centre John Lewis in Brent Cross
- 1978 Bonus reaches 20% for the first time since 1929
Ambleside Park hotel purchased
- 1979 Six months long leave introduced after 25 years' service
- 1984 Five weeks' holiday for everyone after three years
- 1988 John Lewis High Wycombe opens with a restricted range
- 1992 100th Waitrose opens
- 1993 Stuart Hampson succeeds Peter Lewis as Chairman
- 1993–5 Scanning installed throughout Waitrose and supply chain reorganised
- 1994 Sunday trading legal, and begins in Waitrose
First Waitrose Food & Home
- 1999 Demutualisation debate
- 2000 Golden Jubilee fund set up
Waitrose sales pass John Lewis for the first time
- 2001 Buy.com acquired and becomes John Lewis Direct
- 2002 Ocado begins distributing Waitrose products
- 2004 Seven day trading begins in John Lewis; first *Partnership* survey
- 2005 Waitrose Foundation formed in South Africa
- 2007 Charlie Mayfield succeeds Stuart Hampson as Chairman
- 2009 John Lewis Home opens in Poole
Bala Lake amenity centre opened