

The De Havilland Museum

On the 29 August 2023 a 14 strong party of “How Things Work” enthusiasts headed round the M25 to north London to visit the De Havilland Aero Museum.

Their first Flying machine produced in 1904 did not work very well and crashed. This was soon after the Wright brothers had demonstrated that powered flight was possible, in December 1903. Geoffrey de Havilland's wife used her Singer sewing machine to make the fabric coverings for the wooden wings and fuselage on these early machines.

De Havilland produced many well-known aircraft during and after the First World War. They pushed the boundaries of speed and low weight construction. All this development experience led to the self-financed production of the wooden wonder called the “Mosquito”. Due to shortages of aluminium during the Second World War, this aircraft was made of plywood shaped round a concrete mould. Fitted with two Rolls Royce Merlin engines the Mosquito became a formidable and fast fighter bomber. Three examples of the Mosquito in different roles were on display.

Following Sir Frank Whittles development of the jet turbine engine the De Havilland Company produced jet fighters, jet engines and the Comet passenger aircraft. The group also enjoyed the more modern aircraft outside the museum, the trident and the BAe 146.













