

TIMELINE

1910s

1916

Hanworth Park is purchased to be a civil airfield and testing site for aeroplanes.

J.A.Whitehead's aeroplane factory opens in Feltham in July, he organises the first Mother's Day in England in August.

Jill the village swan is accidentally killed by a local taxi driver.

Hanworth Park House is being used as a hospital for injured soldiers from World War I to convalesce.

The horse cart builder Herbert Gibbs' eldest son is killed in World War I, Herbert has a stained glass window made for St Mary's church in Bedfont to commemorate him.

1917

J.A.Whitehead begins his engineering scheme with labour from German prisoners of war, to put the Cardinal River under ground at Hanworth Park.

The aerodrome at Hanworth Park is officially opened, aircraft were finally assembled and tested before being delivered to Royal Flying Corps squadrons in World War I.

Many local women are employed by Whitehead to build aircraft including 800 Sopwith Pups and 500 Acro DH.9s for World War I.

1918

Women from Whitehead's Feltham factory went on a river trip in Richmond with 32 wounded soldiers from the hospital at Hanworth Park House.

On 11th November 1918, the end of World War I is announced.

1919

The last Acro DH.9 aeroplanes are produced at Whitehead's factory.

Herbert Gibbs begins adapting old lorries used in the war for transporting goods to market in London, including one for A.W.Smith the market gardener.

1920s

1920

J.A.Whitehead is declared bankrupt after the end of the war.

1921

The Feltham Marshalling Yards are completed, with the labour of over 200 German prisoners of war.

1926

Aston Martin the luxury car manufacturer purchases part of Whitehead's factory site to produce cars.

Herbert Gibbs' three other sons follow him into the family business of agricultural engineering. Making machines and equipment for farming and transport.

1927

The market gardener A.W.Smith, known as the "Cabbage King" dies and is buried at Feltham Cemetery.

1928

The National Flying Services Ltd is formed and Hanworth Park House and Hanworth Park becomes a private flying club with over 850 members.

1929

Reverend Samuel Gentle Cackett from Bethany Church travels to Athen's in Greece and takes refugee Arousiag and six other girls who were orphaned after the Armenian genocide (1915-1916) to live in England and start a new life in Bedfont.

National Flying Services Ltd rename Hanworth Park the London Air Park, opened by the pilot Flying Duchess, Mary Russell.

The award winning jam manufacturers T.W.Beach & Sons move to William Whiteley's jam factory at Butts Farm, Hanworth.

1930s

1930

Winifred Brown wins the King's Cup air race at the London Air Park, aged 22.

1931

The new "Feltham Tram", produced in Feltham, enters service in London.

On 18th August 1931 the German airship Graf Zeppelin visits the London Air Park, Hanworth.

1932

Amelia Earheart lands at the London Air Park after completing her solo flight from Newfoundland to Ireland.

The German airship Graf Zeppelin re-visits the London Air Park for the last time.

1933

A.W.Smith's market gardening enterprise ends. The Rochester and Grovesnor estates are built on his farmland, where the Glass City used to be.

1934

Hanworth Park House and the London Air Park becomes Hanworth Park House and the London Air Park becomes the London Air Park Flying Club following the closure of National Flying Services.

General Aircraft move to Whitehead's old factory site to build civil monoplanes.

1935

The T.W.Beach & Sons jam factory closes in Butts Farm, Hanworth.

1936

The Hanworth Park House clubhouse is converted into a hotel and welcomes visits from Clem Sohn the "Bird Man" and pilot Amy Johnson.

1939

On 1st September 1939, World War 2 is declared against Germany. As a result private aviation in Hanworth ends.

Several accidents are reported at Feltham Green, a child loses two toes playing in the water of the pond.

1940s

1941

Preparations for D Day begins, General Aircraft begin producing the Hotspur Glider to take soldiers and equipment to France.

1942

General Aircraft begin producing the larger Hemilcar Glider.

1943

The German bombing of Ellington Road, Feltham kills six people and destroys many homes.

Reverend Samuel Gentle Cackett dies and is buried at in Bedfont Cemetery.

1945

On 8th May 1945 the end of World War 2 is announced. General Aircraft's war contract to produce gliders and munitions is cancelled.

The Feltham Urban District coat of arms for Feltham, Hanworth & Bedfont are granted.

1946

Heathrow Airport becomes the principal airport for London.

The "Feltham First" pea, also known as the "Early Wonder" is introduced to market at Covent Garden.

1947

D.Brown purchases the Aston Martin business after test driving the Atom. He begins the development of the famous DB series, first producing the Aston Martin 2-Litre Sports/DB1.

The Butts Farm housing estate in Hanworth is built.

The London Air Park at Hanworth closes.