

u3a Talk 5 June 2025

Magnificent Women and Flying Machines
Sally Smith, writer and journalist

This talk covers the entertaining and often exciting personal stories of British women who have achieved real firsts in aviation including the first woman to fly over London in a balloon in 1785 and the extraordinary Edwardian lady who, against her husband's instructions, went to France and obtained a pilot's licence right up to the ATA girls of the second world war and the first British woman to venture into space.

Sally Smith is a journalist and writer who has worked for the Daily Mail, BBC News in England and ABC News in Australia. She has also spent a lifetime involved in women's aviation including being the British freefall champion, setting up the first all girl parachute display team plus she was a member of the Australian ballooning team and a commercial balloon pilot.