

**Freydis Sharland Receives Award**  
*Tom Stevenson writes in the Benson Bulletin*

**Those magnificent men and women in their  
flying machines**

On the 9th of September 2008 our very own Freydis Sharland was a guest of honour at White Waltham Airfield near Maidenhead for a reception dedicated to those members of the Air Transport Auxiliary ( ATA ) who had the unenviable job of delivering the front line aircraft to the squadrons of the RAF during WW2. These flights were accomplished with the minimum of training, in all weathers and completely unarmed.

To recognise the achievements of Freydis and her ATA colleagues, some 63 years after the war, Freydis, accompanied by Tim and their family, was presented with a special badge by the Prime Minister at a ceremony held at 10 Downing St.

After the war, Freydis became a trainer with the Women's Junior Air Corps and once delivered a Tempest aircraft single-handedly to Pakistan - where she was refused entry to the officers mess because she was a woman. One of her other claims to fame was that she became the first British woman Air Racing Champion and a leading light in the Women's Junior Air Corps. She was still flying micro-lights into her seventies.



Freydis at White Waltham in front of a Canadian Tiger Moth



Freydis at home with the badge presented by the Prime Minister