



## British Women Pilots' Association 2008 Chairwoman's Challenge Trophy

The aim of this competition is to undertake a flight on a theme, which is set each year by the judges.

Competitors can choose their own route, use any type of aircraft, and complete the flight anywhere in the world; the challenge is to make the flight as interesting and imaginative as possible, and to fly to the highest standards of navigation and airmanship. The flight duration must be not less than 75 minutes and not more than 120 minutes. A log book must be submitted to verify the flight which includes pictures, landing fees etc.

This year's theme was **Stately Homes & Gardens** and the award was won by local pilot Janet Chanides, who learned to fly at Turweston. The flight included 17 homes and gardens in the local area including a break for lunch at Wellesbourne.

Janet's story of her journey is below, accompanied by photographs of the route taken by husband Cassius. She can be seen being presented with her trophy in the picture above.



"I started learning to fly about three years ago having moved near Turweston after I retired, flying a PA-28 Warrior, (G-BORK). I obtained my PPL in September 2007 at the ripe old age of 64! Hearing about the BWPA Trophy at their Xmas lunch in 2007 it seemed a competition that would improve both my flying and navigational skills and one that would be fun to enter. As we live in an area rich in stately homes and gardens it seemed ideal that this was chosen as this year's theme. So with

trepidation I sent in my entry forms along with my planned course and a resume of my intentions. I planned a route that would be possible in under two hours - the required time limit - that would overfly 17 stately homes in the area. It included a stop for lunch at Charlecote Park which is conveniently situated immediately next to Wellesbourne airfield. My husband, Cassius, accompanied me and took the pictures as we reached each destination en route. We overflew and took pictures of the following: Sulgrave Manor, Canons Ashby, Broughton Castle, Farnborough Hall, Upton House, Blenheim Palace, Ditchley Park, Compton Verney, Charlecote Park, Warwick Castle, Althorp House, Stoke Park, Castle Ashby, Woburn Abbey, Waddesdon Manor, Wotton House, and Stowe Landscape Gardens. The route had passed through five counties (Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire), had been at times twisted and tortuous, and we had managed to locate and photograph each of the destinations in the set time. Flight completed, now it had to be written up. The only problem had been waiting for a suitable day during an awful summer on which to complete the challenge!"

