

**Dr. Almut (Allie) Dunnington**

Born: 26<sup>th</sup> of Oct 1967 in Hannover/Germany

British citizen. Married. No children.

Balloon hours as P1: 1333. P2: 199. Gas balloon: 55

Licence number: UK and EASA CP439743F

Qualifications: Instructor rating (172), Inspector rating (405), PPL Examiner- and TRE rating.

Other ballooning qualifications: gas balloon and airship rating. Maintenance courses at Cameron Balloons, UK.

Number of countries flown in: 103

**Instructor qualifications:**

As a British Balloon and Airship club (BBAC) qualified instructor (2012) Allie enjoys teaching and training students. Many of her articles contain topics on safety and training. She has just started a brand-new project teaching the PPL syllabus to students via zoom which has already grown to over 70 candidates from all over the world.

**Examiner qualifications:**

Allie gained her UK Type-rating (TRE) examiner rating in 2015. She also qualified as UK PPL examiner making her the first ever UK female examiner in 50 years of ballooning history in Britain.

Having observed check flights in many countries around the world she has gained a broad experience of flying balloons of all sizes from Group C (16 pax) to tiny single-person hoppers.

In December 2020 she converted her licence also to the new EASA BPL.

**Inspector qualifications**

On the technical side, Allie is a qualified UK BBAC and Part 66 inspector.

She passed her inspector renewal audit with the UK's senior inspector, Kevin Meehan in May 2019.

**Involvement in promoting 'Women in Aviation'**

Since the beginning of her ballooning career Allie was interested in the gender question and has conducted many interviews and written a number of research articles on this topic.

The Women's Balloon Event which was started by her in 2010 has become an annual event in the ballooning calendar as it aims to involve more women and girls in aviation and to create a mutual understanding between fixed-wing and lighter-than-air flyers.

The same year she was awarded an achievement diploma by the International Olympic Committee in recognition of her outstanding contribution to promoting the development and participation of women and girls in sport.

Having been an active member of British Women Pilots' Association (BWPA) for over 10 years, Allie regularly participates in flying events and discussions and has given talks during the annual Training Day. She frequently writes articles for the BWPA newsletter and was awarded the Jackie Moggridge

Cup in 2016 for achievements in her aviation career and the Jack Brackenbury award for her aviation photography.

### **Involvement in General Aviation**

Allie has so far tried nearly every form of flying machine from vintage Tiger Moths to Cuban microlight seaplanes, paragliding and trial helicopter lessons.

Throughout the flying season, she can be seen visiting the LAA Sywell or the microlight festival at Popham or wandering around the AeroExpo at High Wickham.

During the 2019 D-Day celebrations Phil and Allie were offered the unique chance to participate with their Beech 18 a flight in formation with the Dakotas to France.

Throughout her ballooning and travel work she has gained insight into other European and overseas aviation bodies.

Various articles for GASCO and the FLYER magazine on top of her numerous publications for AEROSTAT make her a well-known communicator in GA.

### **Other interests and challenges**

Allie and her husband Phil both hold world-records in the number of countries flown by balloon. Whilst Phil has the overall record with 127 countries, Allie holds the female world record of having flown in 103 countries adding Saudi Arabia and Mauritania as their most recent challenges.

In 2015, the couple bought a vintage twin-engine Beech 18, G-BKGM and - together with Cameron Balloons – designed an ultra-light hot air balloon to be carried in the aircraft. Their aim was to fly a balloon in remote and difficult-to-reach places such as the Arctic, Caribbean and Central America.

For their successful expeditions they were awarded the 'Norton Griffiths Challenge Trophy' by the Royal Aero Club (Feb 2020).

Allie speaks several languages including fluent Chinese, Japanese, German and French.

She holds a PhD in Asian Studies and Anthropology and worked for over 20 years as a tour leader in Asia and Great Britain.

But she is also a trained nurse with former work experience in oncology and radiology.

If you don't see Allie out and about on the ground either swimming, running or cycling, then you might see her up in the air – probably in a balloon or their Beech 18.

Website: Gone-with-the-Wind Ltd.: [www.gonewiththewind.uk.com](http://www.gonewiththewind.uk.com)

Blog: [www.onthebeech.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.onthebeech.blogspot.co.uk)

Beech 18 documentary film: [On The Beech FINAL 5thjune2018 Vimeo on Vimeo](#)