

Creative writing challenge: newspaper article

Here's a picture of a newspaper article about Gertrude Bacon; Air Heroine no. 1, 1874-1949. Gertrude Bacon was a pioneer in several fields, most notably ballooning. Along with her father, the Vicar of Cold Ash, she ascended the sky by balloon many times, making her much more adventurous than most people expected of a woman, let alone a vicar's daughter. Ballooning and air flight were a daring and perilous new adventure.

The Bacons were Britain's first aerial photographers, taking pictures of the English countryside as early as 1888. One flight to photograph a meteor shower saw Gertrude's balloon unable to descend back to earth. The passengers threw dozens of notes out of the basket advising that they would need rescuing when the balloon did finally land. The landing, when it finally came was uncontrolled and left Gertrude with a broken arm.

This did not stop Gertrude's adventures and during her long life she became the first English woman to travel in an airship, in an aeroplane and on a commercial flight, all before 1920. On a more local scale, she was recorded as the first woman in Cold Ash to own a bicycle!

Imagine you're a journalist and that you accompany Gertrude on a balloon journey. Write a newspaper article about your experience. Draw a picture to support the article in the blue box.

