

AIRSHIP HERITAGE NEWS

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EDITION NO.11



SEPTEMBER 2023

Welcome to the latest edition, of our Newsletter...



Tomb Raider..s

In our last newsletter, we were awaiting the spell of clear “dry” weather to enable a cleanup of the R.101 tomb. Little did we know at the time, it was probably the longest wait for the AHT’s volunteer force. Your President and Memorials Officer, Paul Ross and Chairman, Alastair Lawson’s various attempts at arranging dates for the cleaning of the R.101 tomb, were keeping an eye on the ever-changing forecast.

I’m pleased to report we did finally get a gap in the clouds and a morning was spent treating the stonework with cleaning products, along with a general tidy up and pruning of the plants in the surrounding border. It was good to see where the sun “went”, as it might be a case for replacing the existing plants with some drought resistant plants for the future.

On a weekly inspection, it seems there is some improvements to discoloured stonework, however it seems that the follow deluge of rain in August lessen the effects of the stone

cleaners. Paul and Alastair are keeping an eye on things and will have a second go at it in September.



Annual General Meeting 17th June 2023

It was good to catch up with those members who were able to attend our AGM on 17th June. It was a hot Saturday afternoon for those in the UK, and morning for those joining from the U.S. In view of this, we may re-visit the timing of the event for future meetings. Vice Chairman Brian Harrison presented a talk written by Terry Heyward on the fascinating challenges of navigating the Atlantic from east to west, and back, by the R.34. For those members unable to attend, this was recorded, and available on our [YouTube channel](#).

IMPORTANT UPDATE: SUBSCRIPTION RATE INCREASE: JANUARY 2024

As with the recent almost monthly hikes in inflation, one of our main costs to the Trust is the printing and postage, three times a year of our excellent magazine, *Dirigible*.

Over the years, costs have been rising but the Trust has absorbed these out of capital reserves without the need to increase subscriptions. Indeed, the last time overseas rate was increased was in 2015, and the UK membership some years before that.

The cost increases were discussed with the membership at the Annual General Meeting, as postage rates were nearly £9 to send the magazine overseas per edition. A proposal put forward, and unanimously agreed that the subscription rates will rise as follows

SUBSCRIPTION RATES FROM 1ST JANUARY 2024

UK membership £30

Overseas Membership £40

What does this mean for you?

PAYMENTS BY STANDING ORDER

If you joined by membership form, and have a regular payment from your bank, this will be by Standing Order. The Standing Order is different from a Direct Debit payment as it is controlled by you, the account holder. *The AHT cannot make changes to the payments you send, unlike collecting via a direct debit.*

If you pay by Standing Order, the payment will normally go through automatically on 1st January.

If you can contact your bank in person and check the payment to the Airship Heritage Trust.

If you have access to your online bank account, you can check your payees and see if you can increase the payment to the new subscription rates.

Please contact your local bank in case of difficulties.

Our account details are as follows:

The Airship Heritage Trust

Account Number: 31563866

HSBC

181 High Street

Berkhamsted

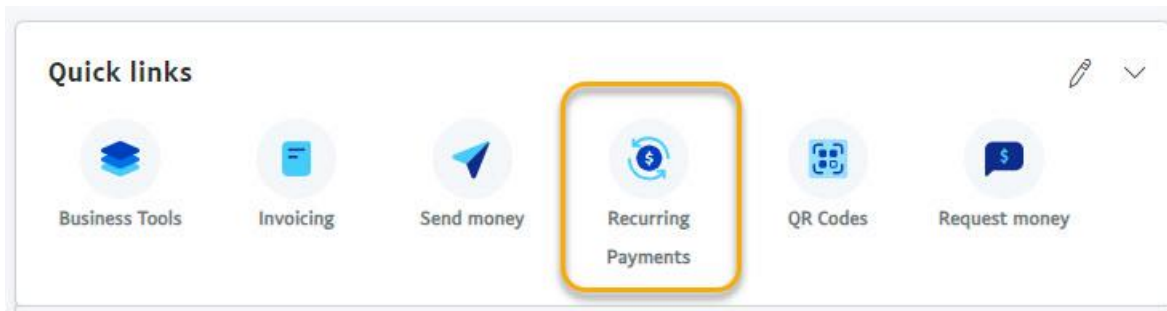
Hertfordshire

Sort Code: 40-24-07

PAYMENTS MADE VIA PAYPAL

Please login to your account and check the recurring payments button. Please update the recurring payments to the new subscription rate, for either UK or Overseas.

We will be updating all the PayPal subscriptions in December to take in to account the new subscription rates.



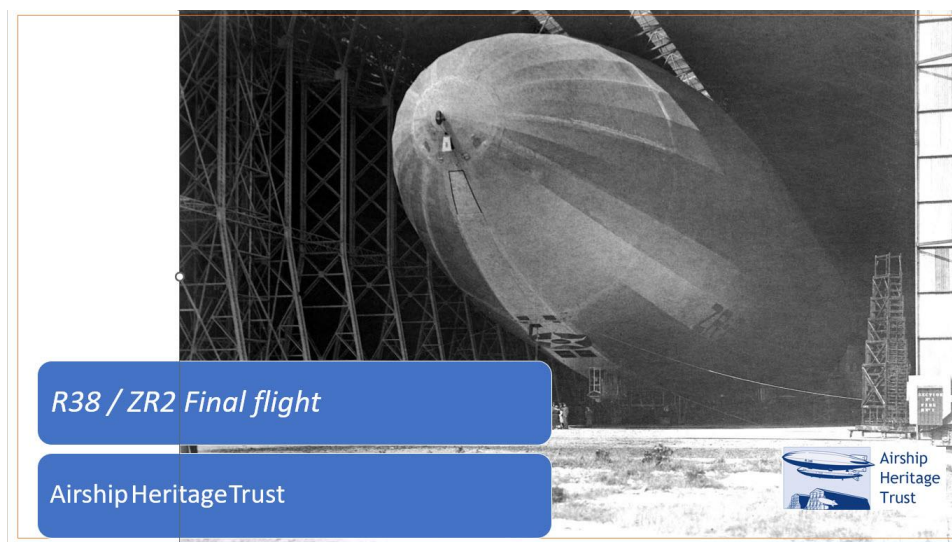
Spreading the word in person and online

Another talk was given by your Chairman to the Buckden History Society on 7th June, despite the heat, it was well attended by some 40 members of the Buckden History Society.

Following the talk to the Ipswich Transport Society, another talk has been booked in Ipswich to the Ipswich and District Historical Transport Society on 24th April 2024. It's good to meet and hear from other organisations and share the history of airships.

As we have mentioned, our members often have talks already prepared, and so if you have one which you would like to offer to give to our own members then please let Alastair or Roger know and we can look to arranging either in person or online.

R38/ ZR2 Final Flight



A new video has been produced and [added to our YouTube](#) channel on the often overlooked and tragic story of the R38 /ZR2. We are looking to cover topics and airship stories often overlooked by other channels.

It's been very well received to the online audience so far

Review from @jsa-z1722: *Thank you as always for a wonderful informative video on the fascinating topic of airships*

@foowashere *Wonderfully narrated and illustrated, but such a tragic story.*

We are working on more as the time provides but we do enjoy making them as the feedback to the wider online audience is appreciated.

BBML Library Lottery Award

Our friends at the British Balloon Museum and Library have recently applied and been awarded £99K by THE NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND to create a Museum online.

Thanks to National Lottery players, they have been awarded a grant where they can put all our artefacts online on a newly designed website for everybody to see and learn about balloons.

Every item in their collection will be catalogued with a description and its history. Educationally, areas showing the basics of how a balloon flies, how it works – all the equipment, and how it is built will hopefully encourage students to maybe organise events where our balloonists can come.

As you know this is similar to the AHT scanning project, but we are working with the BBLM and ensuring that works carried out by the AHT and scanning items, and putting online are not duplicated.

It shows the importance of sharing as much information online to the wider public.

Donations 'out-of-the blue'.

Alastair received the following items from an OX 7 donor, a few months ago.

Printed on 'tissue paper', now rather faded and indistinct, this is a "Souvenir in Affectionate Remembrance of the R 101 Heroes", who lost their lives in the R 101.

It does confirm that "The Prince of Wales and the Premier will be present at Cardington, where they will pay homage to the heroes."

We do have a previously donated faded framed copy of this souvenir in our archive. Size 13^{1/2} inches square. *(As you can see, I have been unable to remove creases etc. Ed.)*



Also these photographs: "R 101 day just prior to last flight."





R 101 trials near Cardington. 1.11.29.

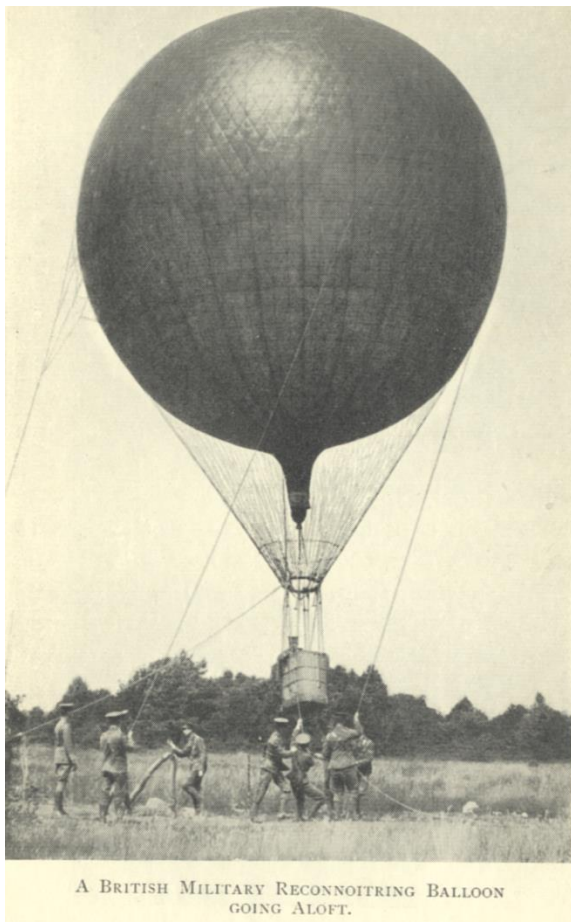


Notes on rear of photographs: "Navy lorries carrying 2 coffins".

"R 101 funeral procession at Cardington Beds. Note old gentleman walking (*lame*) behind coffin. Only civilian walking behind lorries."

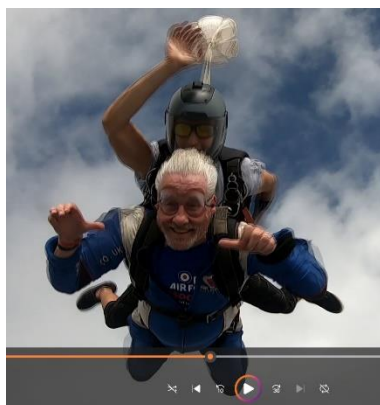
We are always pleased to add to our archive. If you know anyone willing to donate items, please do encourage them.

Some other photos recently found – from the Boer War.

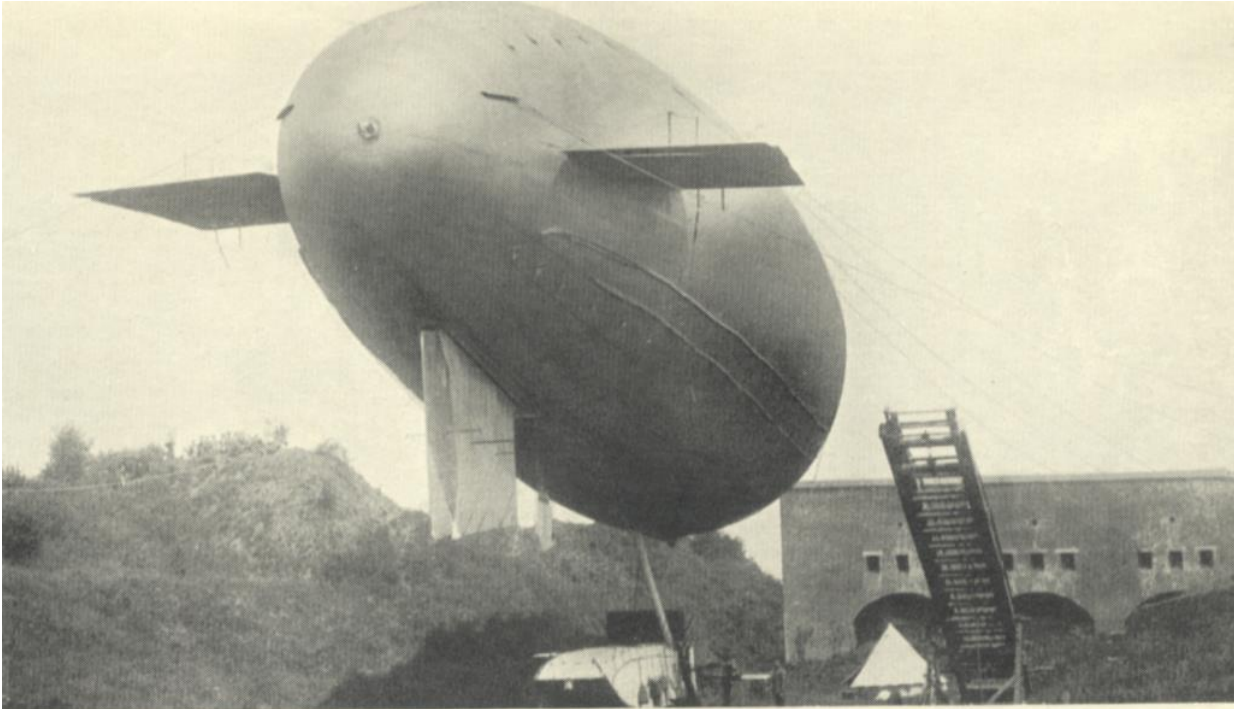


(A word to those 'posed army lads' – I wouldn't shift that cylinder if I were you!! Ed.)

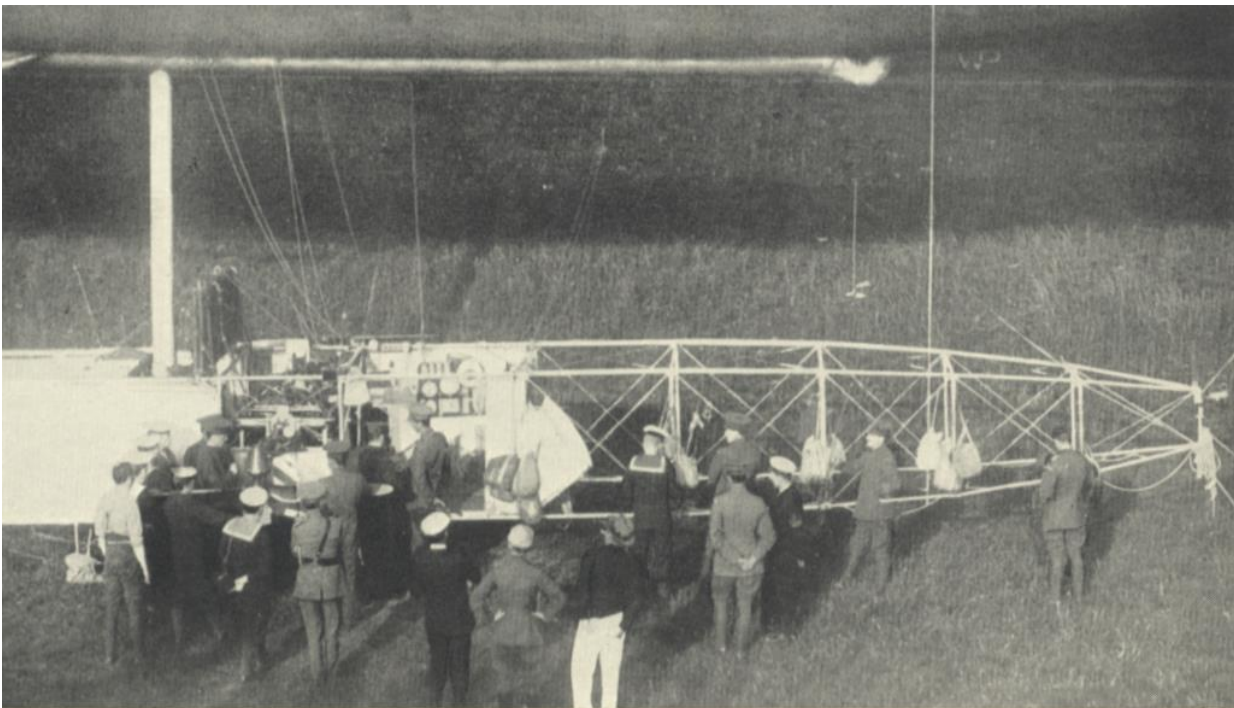
Other news – Roger Allton's 15,000ft Skydive for Royal Air Force Assn. 10th Sept 23. Please donate if you will to: justgiving.com/page/roger-allton-hibbalstow



The 'Gamma' airship.



THE BRITISH DIRIGIBLE "GAMMA" AT ANCHOR.
At right is the "fire-escape," ladder to gain access to any part of the airship.



THE CAR OF A BRITISH MILITARY DIRIGIBLE.

(Notice the Naval and Army Officers and Other Ranks attending to 'Gamma'. Ed)

Please do telephone and arrange to visit us – even if you are on the way to somewhere, and can only stay a few minutes.

0115 933 4795 or 07973223111

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfTkgT_XvCc Radar Zeppelin flight August 1939.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=3105305369613370&set=g.103874423033779> More interesting airship items and models.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scwMm5Ajygg> For Trustees and Members who are model train enthusiasts



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Meccano automated mine train system

It is an automated train circuit reproducing the work of loading and unloading coal inside a mine. All functions are performed mechanically using 117 gears and 9 different modules. The mechanical drive of all these modules is provided solely by the electric motor contained in each car and powered by batteries. No electronic or computer ...

www.youtube.com

OFFICE ADDRESS IS: ST. JAMES BUSINESS PARK
RADCLIFFE ON TRENT, NOTTINGHAM NG12 2JP

Located off the A52 between Radcliffe and Bingham opposite to the Saxondale village turning, 12 miles from the A1 or 1.5 miles from Radcliffe Railway Station.

Can you help...? Do you get time off from work as a charity initiative like member Andy Millington, if so the AHT needs you!

Also – please do keep searching wherever you are, for ‘Airship’ related items.

Looking forward to meeting you all, and we can offer coffee too – Cheers,



Roger Allton. Trustee and Membership Secretary.
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AIRSHIP HERITAGE TRUST. Charity no. 296398

President: Paul Ross

Patron: The Rt. Hon. Baroness Smith of Basildon