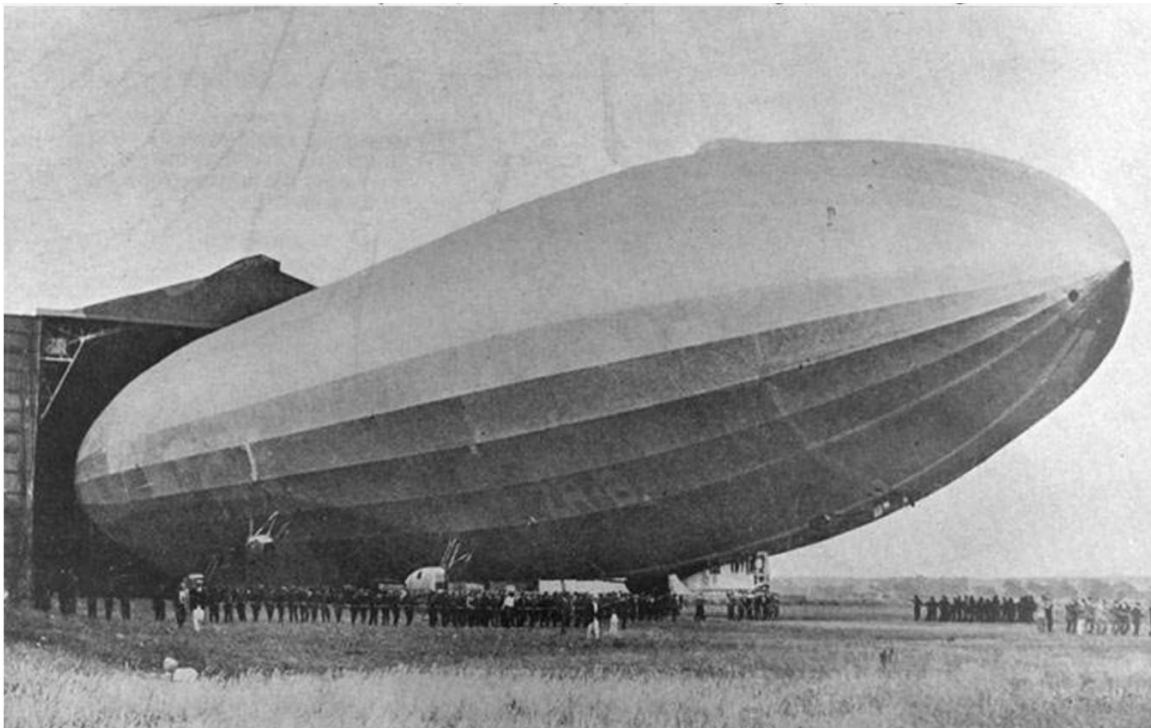




Welcome to our latest newsletter

R 38/ ZR2 and the story of a compass



Admiralty Class A ship: R38 emerging from the Cardington shed

Bob Hattersley contacted us by letter with a fascinating story about how he had come to acquire the ship compass from the R38 airship. Bob's grandfather, Dr William Impey Baker was educated in England and qualified as a GP doctor. He set up his medical practice in North Lincolnshire in the area between Scunthorpe and the river Humber, based in Winterton, about six miles south of Ferriby on the south bank of the River Humber.

Dr Baker built a formidable reputation in that area for the care of the sick, and also the healthy, as he was instrumental in persuading Parliament to install sewage treatment plants and fresh water supplies to the local area.

In 1921 The R38, now registered as the ZR2 prior to being sold and transferred to America, was returning to the RNAS Howden after an abortive attempt due to dense fog, to fly to Pulham. Tragically, the ZR2 exploded and broke up over the Humber estuary.

Dr Baker was one of the nearby spectators in South Ferriby where he was known in the small harbour office. Almost immediately, he was asked to accompany a rescue party to be sculled out to the wreckage to attend and help the injured crew members. Sadly, only four crew members survived the loss of the ship.

For his valiant work in helping the injured crew members, Dr Baker was presented with the R38's compass salvaged from the wreckage, in recognition for his unpaid rescue efforts on that day.

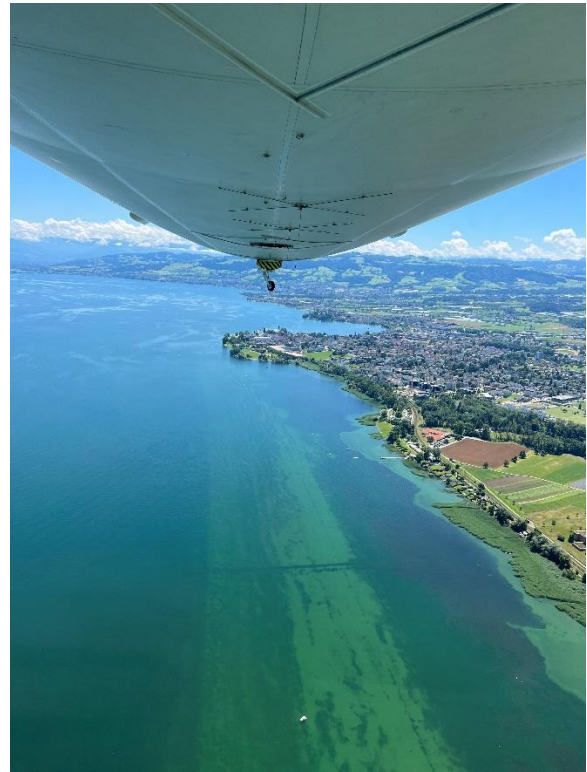


The compass shows a three-dimensional airship attitude and direction.

The compass was restored by Barry Phillips of Southampton who is a specialist compass expert.

You can see more of the compass as Bob has created a YouTube video describing the compass. https://youtu.be/TAauRUSxP_8

A trip of a lifetime was enjoyed when Alastair Lawson and German AHT member, Stephan Niemeyer arranged a trip in a Zeppelin NT, over the home and birthplace of the Zeppelin at Lake Constance (Bodensee)



We were both welcomed and attended the Friends of the Zeppelin Museum AGM at the Zeppelin Museum, Friedrichshafen. We also visited the Zeppelin Association Museum and Herr Urban's extensive collection situated further up the lakeshore at the beautiful town of

Meersburg. A very full weekend was thoroughly enjoyed. A full museum report with news will follow in the next Dirigible.

EVENTS DIARY

Annual General Meeting and *Show and Share*

Our Annual General Meeting was held online on Tuesday 11th, and became a global gathering with members joining from Canada, Germany as well as the UK. Some familiar faces joined alongside some new faces at our online gathering.

After the official agenda was completed, an informal **Show and Share** meeting was held with some wonderful items being presented from members own collections.

As this was very popular and great fun, we have decided to run another online **Show and Share** online evening.

Show and Share

Tuesday 6th August 7:00pm

As with the AGM details, the Teams link will be emailed out prior to the meeting. Do please join and share an item; photo; or something from your own collection. As with the AGM, we'll be emailing out a link to join the meeting online in the few days before the Show and Share meeting.

Upcoming Online Talk: The Airlander: a history

Tuesday 22nd October 7:00pm



AHT member Andrew Barber, Head of Airworthiness at Airlander, has kindly offered to give a talk on Airlander's fifteen-year history. With its roots going back to the 1980's Skyships and

even further with the Dennison Burney elliptical airship design almost a century ago. This will be a fascinating insight into the airship and the company.

The talk will be on Teams and a link will be sent to members prior to the event. Please put the date in your diary.

Ipswich Historical Transport Trust Lecture

On 24th April, your chairman gave a lecture to the Ipswich and District Historical Transport Society, which was well attended by some 90 members, and very well received.

Sadly, the hall's roving microphone was not working, and so we had to resort to an "airship sermon" from the working microphone in the pulpit.



It was wonderful to meet so many people who had local family connections with airships in the eastern region and Pulham in particular. It was an opportunity to also take along some items from our collection, and particularly the Dorothy Cochrane Foster photo album. The follow up messages, letters and phone calls have been lovely to receive. It shows the benefit of giving talks and reaching different people.

An email from audience member Sarah Thrower gave a review of the evening:

Dear Alastair,

Just a short email to say how interesting we found your talk last night

I will be honest, I wasn't looking forward to it and only really attended to bring my father. But I will admit the content was fascinating and I came away feeling that the airship has not really ever got the recognition it deserves in our aviation history.

My father was enthralled from start to finish, regurgitating your information back to me on the journey home.

It was poignant seeing the photo album and as my Gran worked at Cardington making the barrage balloons it is possible she may have been on the group photo but the faces were too tiny to really tell.

Thought I'd share a copy of photos of the Sheds taken recently (21/4) when dad took my partner to show him where he went to school.

My Great great grandfather helped to build the hangers as we call them, and after your talk I assume it would be shed 1. So it turns out my family has quite a link to the Sheds, to Cardington (Shortstown) and to the balloons (Airships).

Anyway, thank you so very much.

I will be signing up for membership to the trust, so will get my little badge that way.

Sarah Thrower

We've been told that a return visit is in order when they organise their winter schedule.

OUR COLLECTION GROWS

Over the last 12 months more books and research materials have arrived and are in the process of being sorted and catalogued. We've also been able to get some great pictures on the walls which had previously been in store.



We are working our way through many items which have been donated recently. Many boxes have arrived, and it takes time to sort them out, but they are now in the filing archive.

Original books and manuscripts are now accessible and are available to be viewed as well as some unusual items turning up.



A pewter tankard from the late Derek Millis's personal collection which has been kindly donated by his wife, Pam Millis, to the AHT collection.

The tankard was produced commemorating the maiden flight of the Skyship 500, was in need of a little light renovation, some metal polish brings it back to its former shiny state to highlight the engraving.



We are now looking at getting some more display cabinets to improve the items we have for show.

Now we have stored all the last items, we'll be looking at further scanning, sorting and cataloguing

We also have a pretty decent coffee machine if you fancy a cup.

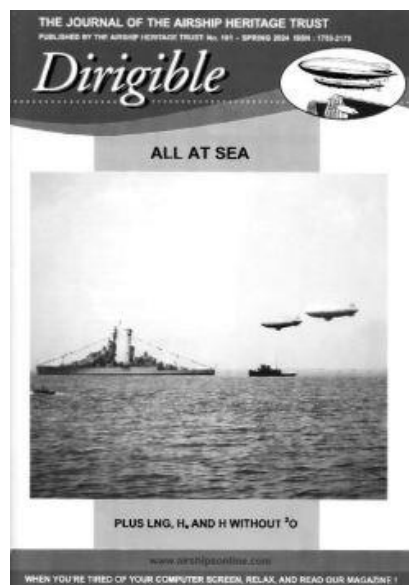
Please feel free to contact Alastair Lawson or Roger Allton to arrange a visit.

OVERSEAS DIRIGIBLE DELIVERY DISRUPTION

As you would have read in the last newsletter, From March 2023, new customs duty rules came into force regarding the delivery of goods to the E.U.

Consequently, we have received a small number of copies of *Dirigible* returned to our offices as a result.

Dirigible Edition 101
(in case you didn't get it, let us know!)



If you have found that you are missing any copies of *Dirigible* during 2023 or 2024 of which please contact Alastair Lawson who will send out missing copies to you email:

alastairlawson1@gmail.com

All the back copies of Dirigible are available in PDF format from our website. They are available on the Dirigible section of the website.

We hold back 12 months' worth, or the last three editions, as these are *exclusively for members*, however if you would like an electronic copy of a recent edition, please let us know.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS MEMBERS WHO MAKE PAYMENTS MADE VIA PAYPAL

We are halfway through the year, and we are updating all the PayPal subscriptions approximately 30 days before your subscription is due, to update the new subscription rate levels.

You will be notified automatically when the change is processed. Please note your membership renewal date will remain unaltered.

Thank you to all those members who updated their membership!

If you pay by standing order at the start of the year, please update your bank details, and if you have missed updating it this year, you can pay the £5 subscription top-up increase via our website.

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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.

Come and visit – Feel free to contact Roger or Alastair

Rogerallton@hotmail.com telephone 0115 933 4795 or 07973223111

or Alastair Lawson email alastairlawson1@gmail.com should you wish to come and visit.

Members and friends are always welcome