

2021 AGM Minutes Appendix 1

The Friends of Raymond Chairman's Report to AGM 14 March 2021

Even though 2020 was marred by events being cancelled, various lockdowns, and a small window for summer activity, I still have a few things to report on how the year went.

Because of lockdown the boats stayed at Braunston covered up, Norman Townsend and Nick Lake checked and pumped them out regularly, which we are very grateful for. In September *Nutfield* went on loan again to the Narrow Boat Trust for their autumn coal run, visiting places she hadn't been for a while, like the Thames to up to Lechlade, and up the Kennet and Avon to Newbury. This left us a chance to give *Raymond* a good clean, ready for the 50th Anniversary Jam Ole Run, but as with most things, this event was cancelled. So Raymond was put back to bed.

On Friday 30th October, our patron Tim Coghlan met *Nutfield & Brighton* at Stoke Bruerne as they were on the way back from the coal run, and presented FoR, NBT & Friends of the Canal Museum with a cheque each for £1,000, which was gratefully received. May I add our thanks to Tim, and also to NBT for taking care of *Nutfield*, and for their kind donation of £750 in return for borrowing her?

Due to Covid restrictions, *Nutfield* had to stay at Alvecote over the winter, and we are grateful to Chris R Jones for checking on her regularly.

With fingers and toes crossed, we are all hoping that the Braunston Historic Boat Rally will go ahead at the end of June, so we can once again show off *Nutfield & Raymond* in the parade.

And finally a special thank you to Norman Townsend & Kath Wheeler for constantly thinking up new ideas to raise money, and holding some garage sales which Norman will report on later in the meeting.

I'll sign off with the good news that I had my first jab on Friday at the tender age of 55, so the future is bright, and I look forward to seeing you all in the beer tent at Braunston Rally.

Clare Hewitt
Chairman