

Friends of Raymond Annual General Meeting 2023.
Boat Maintenance Report.

During the past year we were once again given the use of the Braunston Marina dry dock and were able to give Raymond two coats of blacking, much of which was provided by the Marina at no cost to the Friends. We have also benefited greatly from having the use of container space at the side of the Arm, close to where Raymond is now moored and opposite her 1958 launch site. Our grateful thanks goes to Braunston Marina for all their help and support again this year.

While in the dry dock various jobs were undertaken including removal of some rotten wood in both the stem and stern posts. The exposed areas were treated with wood preserver before being filled with new timber bonded in with marine grade semi-flexible filler. After being levelled and shaped the new materials were re-painted and partially redecorated. There is still some outstanding work to be done on this, and further areas will need attention this year.

At Easter we plan to hold a work party to remove Raymond's side cloths which are now in poor condition. We have arranged for Raymond to go to Brinklow Boat Services this Spring to have the gunwhales repaired and new side cloths fitted. Depending on how much new timber is required for the gunwhale repairs, and the resultant costs (which won't be known until they are stripped out); we are also hoping to have new top cloths made.

During the trip to Rickmansworth last year, Nutfield's Lister engine began to show signs of leaking its oil in several places and so we asked Lister engineer Dave Ross (also at Brinklow) to inspect it. He was able to identify several likely problems including main bearing oil seals and will be undertaking a major service on the engine in February/March this year.

We have been allocated the use of a dry dock during the week before August Bank Holiday which includes the holiday weekend, when we plan to redecorate Nutfield's cabin both inside and out.

We shall once again need as much help as possible to get the jobs done and I urge you to please put these dates on your calendar now. Please come along and give some of your time. It doesn't matter if you haven't done this sort of work before – it's 18th century technology and we have work that almost anyone can do.

Our grateful thanks go to all who have helped in whatever way during the past year to keep our working boats afloat for future generations to enjoy.

Norman Townsend. January 2023