



FoR News June 2022

Braunston Rally this weekend!



Raymond leads the opening parade at the 2018 Braunston Historic Narrowboat Rally

As we reported in the May issue of *FoR News*, the main event of our year is taking place this coming Saturday and Sunday, 25th and 26th June. The Braunston Historic Narrowboat Rally & Canal Festival begins at 10am each day, with the opening parade of boats, to be led by *Nutfield & Raymond* carrying guests of honour Timothy West and Prunella Scales, starting at around 11am on Saturday.

The event always attracts one of the largest gatherings of ex-working boats and other historic craft on the canal system and, after an absence of two years, this year's promises to be a vintage one. In addition to the boats themselves, the festival features trade and craft exhibitors, canal societies and charities, food, a bar, and entertainment. Entrance is £20 per car, with all proceeds going to canal and local causes.



Friends of Raymond will have a large sales area set up by the marina arm, with *Nutfield & Raymond* on display alongside. So if you are coming to the rally, be sure to pay us a visit.

In addition to our famous Jam 'Ole jam and marmalade, and our other regular offerings, we will have an array of varied and interested canal-related items that have been donated to us, and a larger-than-usual selection of second-hand

books on the subject of waterways and railways. Norman Townsend and Kath Wheeler will also be displaying a range of things they make themselves, including Norman's popular narrowboat planters, which have sold like hot cakes, making a substantial contribution to our income.

As well as the opening parade, there will be parades of boats on Saturday afternoon and late Sunday morning, in which *Nutfield* will take part. On a strictly first come, first served basis, any FoR members attending the rally on either day are very welcome to come on one of these parades. So, if you are coming to the rally and would like a boat ride, please, let us know in advance, or see us on the day, in plenty of time.



And of course, we can always use extra help, especially late Sunday afternoon when we have to pack everything away. So, if you are coming to the show and would also be willing to give us a hand, we would be very grateful. If you are able to help at any time, please let Nick Lake know in advance, or just come and see us at the sales stall.

Contacts for the Braunston Rally are:
Diana Golder: rdgolder@aol.com
Nick Lake: nicklake@outlook.com or 07712 005444

Rickmansworth Festival



For the first time since 2016, we attended the Rickmansworth Festival on the weekend of 21st and 2nd May. The hot, sunny weather over that weekend certainly brought out the visitors, which more than justified our decision to make the two-week round trip again. The festival was also well-attended by historic boats, many of which were en route to the Historic Narrow Boat Club gathering on the Limehouse Cut the following

weekend. So, quite apart from the pleasure of seeing a good many old friends, in terms of income, this year's Ricky Festival was the most successful we have ever attended. The show crew was Brian Seymour, Roger & Diana Golder, and Nick Lake.

The trip there and back, was not without incident, including a rare engine breakdown at Berkhamsted on the way home, but owing to pressure of time, the story of the trip will have to be included in the July issue of *FoR News*.

Meanwhile, a large number of pictures of the boats during the trip have been posted on our Facebook group, which can be accessed via the Facebook button on the website. And we must also extend our



thanks to all the volunteers who turned out at various points along the way to help. It would have been hard going without them. The boat crew was Roger & Diana Golder, and Nick Lake, with Frankie Morini in the second week. Lock-wheelers were Neil Hankin, Norman Townsend, Kevin Alder, Paul Weal, and Mike Bowley (with his trusty bike).

A sudden change of plan

Crick Boat show

The boats were already on their way down to Rickmansworth when we were faced with the decision on whether or not to go to the Crick Boat Show because, in the week before we were due to leave, the show organisers advised us that the historic boats, which included *Nutfield & Raymond*, would be sited on the far side of Crick Marina, in a position that was not only away from the main show area, but also required our sales gazebo to be erected at the top of a steep grassy bank.

We had been put on this site in 2018, and found it to be so unsatisfactory that we had informed the organisers that we would not come to the show if we were put in that position again. As a result, we were offered an excellent mooring in 2019, which gave us the best returns we have ever achieved at Crick, and we had received a verbal indication early in the year that we would be there again. In the four years since we were last on far side of the marina, the mobility of some of our members has reduced considerably, so the long walk from the car park, the difficulty of access to bring in our sales stock, and the steepness of the grassy bank, that had proved before to be both a safety hazard to our volunteers and a deterrent to visitors, gave us little option but to withdraw from the show.

Stoke Bruerne



The boats in Stoke Top Lock, 7pm Saturday 28th May, with Neil Hankin on *Nutfield* and Roger Golder on *Raymond*
Picture: Frankie Morini

In a hasty rethink, we decided Stoke Bruerne would make an excellent alternative, especially as the boats would be there on their way back from the Ricky Festival. Canal & River Trust responded very quickly, and kindly granted us permission to leave the boats at Stoke for the week before the bank holiday weekend, and to have them on display outside the Canal Museum over the four days of the holiday period itself.

The fine weather on the Thursday and Friday attracted a lot of visitors, and we did some good business on those two days. However, the deteriorating weather produced a disappointing day on the Saturday, so we decided to cut our losses and not open on the Sunday. Volunteers over the weekend at Stoke Bruerne were Brian Seymour, Roger & Diana Golder, Norman Townsend, Kath Wheeler, Mike & Michele I'Anson, and Nick Lake.

We returned the boats to Braunston Marina on Monday 6th June, satisfied that we had made the right call about Crick. The boat crew was Norman Townsend, Frankie Morini, and Nick Lake, and the lock-wheelers were Neil Hankin and Paul Weal.

Upcoming activities and events

A full, updated schedule of the events and activities for the rest of the season will be published shortly, but dates for the next two months, for anyone who is able to help or would like to visit, are:

- Sat 25th and Sun 26th June: Braunston Historic Narrowboat Rally
- Fri 1st to Sun 3rd July: *Raymond* docking at Braunston
- Sat 23rd and Sun 24th July: Cosgrove Canal Festival
- Sat 30th July: Linslade Canal Festival
- Mon 15th August: Photoshoot in conjunction with Timeline Events in the Cosgrove/Stoke Bruerne area (to be confirmed)
- Sat 27th to Mon 29th August: Bank Holiday weekend at Stoke Bruerne (to be confirmed)

Raymond's new range



And finally, as promised in the last issue of *FoR News*, here is a picture of the new cabin range in position. The gas stove under the range is used for everyday kettle-boiling etc.

The installation was carried out by Candle Bridge Fabrication at Braunston Marina, who also made and fitted a new flue pipe. We were relieved that, as the stove is on legs, and compact enough to allow adequate space around it, it was not necessary to fit flame-resistant boards that would have detracted from the traditional look of the cabin.

The next issue of *FoR News* will be published around mid-July, and will report on the Braunston Historic Narrowboat Rally and *Raymond's* docking, plus a look back at the trip to the Ricky Festival. Meanwhile, if you have any questions or comments on this newsletter, or on anything to do with The Friends of Raymond in general, please contact the editor, Nick Lake.



Friends of Raymond on tour! Members at Marsworth Locks, Friday 27th May. Left to right, Roger Golder, Nick Scarcliffe, Diana Golder, Nick Lake, Alison Cockerill, Paul Weal, Frankie Morini. Picture: Diana Golder (and a passer-by)

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