

# Friends of Raymond

Registered Charity no: 1059614



**Patron: Tim Coghlan**

Spring 2016



The Raymond & Nutfield News

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## Chairman's Report No. 1.....

Taken overall, 2015 was another generally successful year for the trust. Our income at least matched our expenditure, so we remain in a solid financial position; we attended a good selection of events during the season, and the public reaction to the appearances of our boats was as positive as ever. We had our ups and downs - the lack of available crew forcing our withdrawal from the Black Country Festival was unfortunate, and the discovery of creeping rot in Raymond's cabin at the docking in October has presented us with a task for the future. But Nutfield now has a full set of running gear, and we have weatherproof covers for the cabins of both boats, so in future their appearance and condition can be better protected.

We held our first members' day, taking a number of people on a trip to Hillmorton for a pub lunch, which proved to be a great success - we intend to repeat the exercise in 2016. And we have welcomed a number of new, active members to our list of volunteers; membership overall is on the up, although we know that we need to continue this trend to ensure the future of the trust.

2016 is going to see a number of changes, not least because I feel I have run my course as the trust chairman. It is high time for others to take over the jobs I have been handling, for a change of blood and maybe even a change of direction from a new, younger team at the helm. I am very grateful to the other trustees and the officers of the trust both past and present for their unstinting support over the years, and will continue myself to support the trust in the future in every way I am able.

**Steve Miles, January 2016**

## .....and Chairman's Report No. 2!

Following on from Steve's decision to step down as Chair I was honoured to be voted in as the new Chair at our January meeting by the trustees. May I take this opportunity of thanking Steve for all his guidance and leadership of the charity since taking on the role and we are so pleased to see him remaining as a trustee to assist myself and the other trustees in moving the charity forward during some challenging times.

As many of you will know I am no stranger to being chair of Friends of Raymond having taken on the role when Francis Stapleton stepped down. The charity has come a long way during Steve's chairmanship and I am especially pleased with the growing number of new members, officers and trustees that have joined us bringing with them a range of skills to complement those of our existing officers and trustees. I would like to welcome our new Trustees, Graham Lane, Nick Lake and Chris M Jones (no relation to me honestly!) to the charity and look forward to working with them.

The coming two years are going to be quite a challenge for the charity with the significant rebuild to the cabins of both boats and the consequential cost to ourselves as well as the pull on the time and energy of our members and volunteers. I would ask that all members consider how they can assist the charity either in raising more funds, giving of their time and energy at work parties or assisting at shows to increase our profile so that we can ensure our ultimate goals of maintaining these historic boats continues into the future. Contact details for the officers managing these activities are in the newsletter on page 2 if you can help us in any way,

Look forward to a challenging but I am sure enjoyable year,

**Chris (R) !**

### **EVENTS IN 2016**

The planned list of events that we are attending in 2016 is as follows:-

April 23rd-24th	BCBM Boat Share Show
April 30 <sup>th</sup> -May 1st	IWA Northampton Branch Boat Rally
May 21st-22nd	Rickmansworth Canal Festival
May 28th-30th	Crick Boat Show
June 18th-19 <sup>th</sup>	Foxton Locks Festival
June 25th-26th	Braunston Historic Boat Show
July 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	Cosgrove Canal Festival
July 30th	Linslade Canal Festival
August 13th-14 <sup>th</sup>	Blisworth Canal Festival
October 2nd	Banbury Canal Day

We have also been invited to attend the Heritage Open Days on the Saltisford Arm in Warwick on 10<sup>th</sup> -11th September. This has still to be finalised.

## Treasurer's Report for 2015

2015 was a good year on the money side. The Friends of Raymond broke even, or to be precise, we made a loss of £729 which for a charity is a good result because it means we've been putting the money we receive to good use.

The accounts for 2015 were accepted by the trustees at the AGM on 24th January and the key points, compared with last year, are:

	2015	2014
Income	£7,878	£7,847
Expenditure	£8,607	£2,935
Profit/loss	-£729	£4,912
Value of cash and stock in hand at 31st December 2015	£12,150	£12,879

**Nutfield** has recently been valued at £45,000 and Raymond at £60,000 which means that at 31st December 2015, the total worth of The Friends of Raymond was £117,150

### Donations and subscriptions

As ever, our main source of income has been donations and membership subscriptions and in 2015 this amounted to £3,916. So a very big thank you is due to all our members for their subscriptions and donations, with special thanks to our patron, Tim Coghlan, and other individual donors whose contributions amounted to many hundreds of pounds. And we are, of course, once again indebted to Andrew Cooley and the National Boat Share Show for the outstandingly generous donation of £1,000.

### Shows and events

Thanks are also due to our Sales Team of Brian Seymour, Diana Golder and Robin Bishop who have again worked tirelessly to buy, acquire and produce the many items we sell at shows and events. And as a result of their time and effort The Friends of Raymond last year returned a net profit of £1,460 on sales.

And, of course, we can't forget the contribution made by all our volunteers who helped take Nutfield and Raymond hundreds of miles to the shows and events we attended, and those who talked themselves hoarse when we got there telling our story to the many visitors who came to admire the boats and take a peek into Raymond's cabin, all of which helped to raise nearly £520 in bucket collections.

### Easy Fundraising

Easy Fundraising was a little disappointing during 2015, contributing only £16, but thanks in no small part to Graham Lane's efforts to raise awareness, I can report that we've just had a payment in from Easy Fundraising for £42 for the last three months. So if everyone who shops online registers for Easy Fundraising it really will become a significant income stream.

## Gift Aid

The subscriptions and donations we received last year from members and donors who Gift Aided their contributions amounted to £1,650 on which we are due to receive a refund of £412.50 from HMRC. Gift Aid really does give a considerable boost to our income so thank you to everyone who Gift Aids their payments to us. But may I also ask anyone who is a UK taxpayer and hasn't, or isn't sure if they have given us a Gift Aid Declaration to please consider it. Just let Graham or me know and we'll send you a declaration, or just do it online. It doesn't matter if it turns out you've done it twice but a small amount of your time helps make a big difference to us.

## How the money was spent

The three main areas of expenditure in 2015 were:

<b>Boat maintenance costs</b> Including professional services for rewiring Nutfield, remedial work on Raymond's cabin, a complete set of new mast and stands for Nutfield and two new stands for Raymond and other jobs, plus DIY maintenance and replacements	£3,360
<b>Boat operating costs</b> Including licences, insurance and diesel	£1,774
<b>Sales costs</b> Including show entry fees and the purchase of jam and marmalade and other sales items	£2,392
	£7,526

The remaining £1,081 covered administration costs including public liability insurance, Newsletter printing and distribution, webhosting charges and PayPal fees.

## Footnote

Although we managed to more or less break even in 2015, it is just as well that we started 2016 with a healthy bank balance because it looks like being a high-spending year. At the time of writing Nutfield has just had a new cabin which, along with the engine room, will be repainted and sign-written in early May.

Meanwhile, and as a priority, the bottoms on Raymond need caulking which can only be done with the boat out of the water and further work is urgently needed on Raymond's cabin, after which the cabin will require a repaint. Whether or not other work that needs doing on both boats can be carried out this year will depend how far we can make the money stretch.

**Nick Lake, Treasurer**



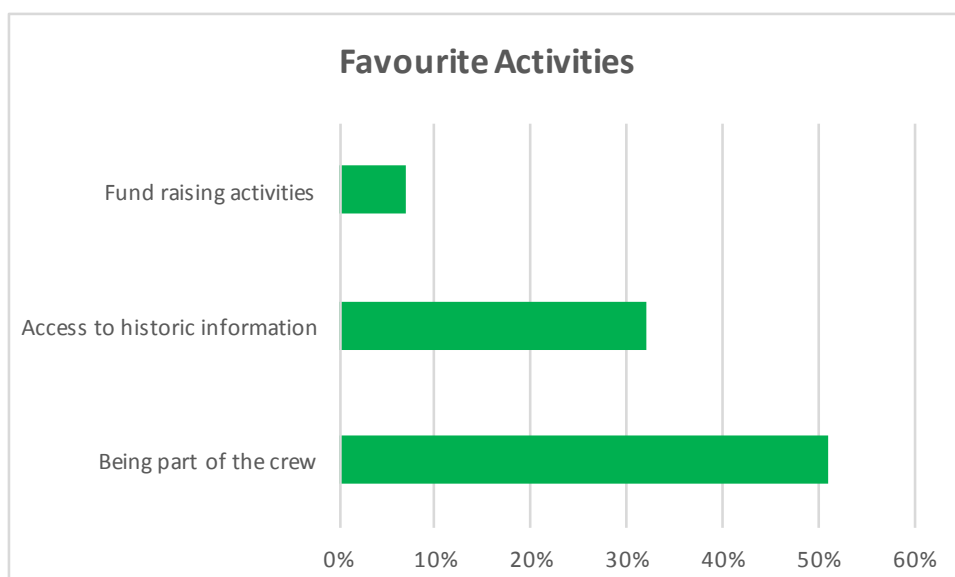
## Membership Update

I am excited at the prospect of the forthcoming year and look forward to the seeing Nutfield and Raymond at the 10 events scheduled from April – October (see <http://friendsofraymond.org.uk/visit-us> for more information). These events are great opportunity to catch up with members and friends both new and old. Importantly, they represent a chance to promote the Trust, sign up new members and grow our fundraising activities and product sales, including our “famous” Jam’Ole jam and marmalade.

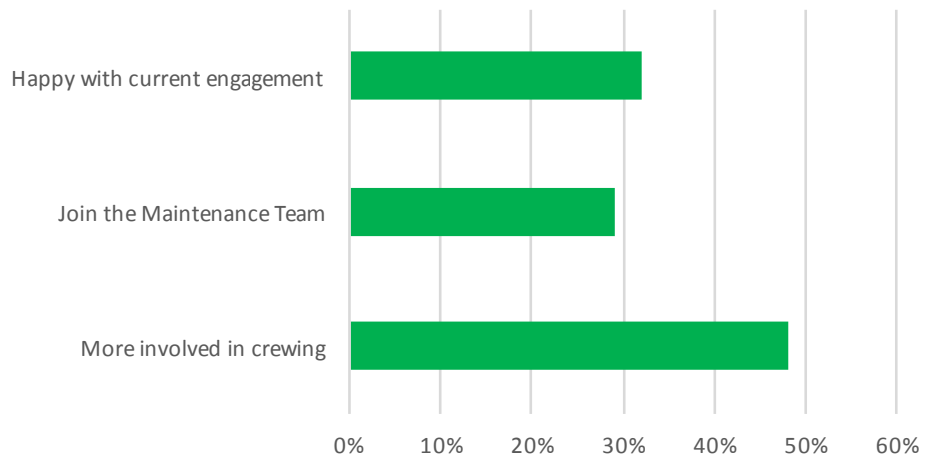
Last year we saw our membership grow to 113 and on behalf of everyone involved with FoR, a warm welcome is extended to the 21 new members that joined in 2015. We look forward to having you involved and your continued support in 2016.

As you know, membership fees and donations are a vital income stream for the Trust and therefore it is important that we offer all members something that appeals to their interests. Earlier this year we launched the first annual Membership Survey. This was your opportunity to provide feedback and promote ideas that will help shape the Trust in the future. My thanks goes out to the 31 members that were kind enough to take the time to complete it. Your responses were positive and constructive and on the back of your feedback we will be launching some initiatives and activities throughout the coming year.

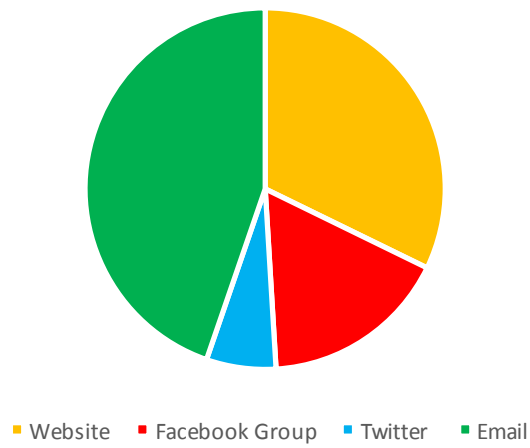
**Here are some highlights:**



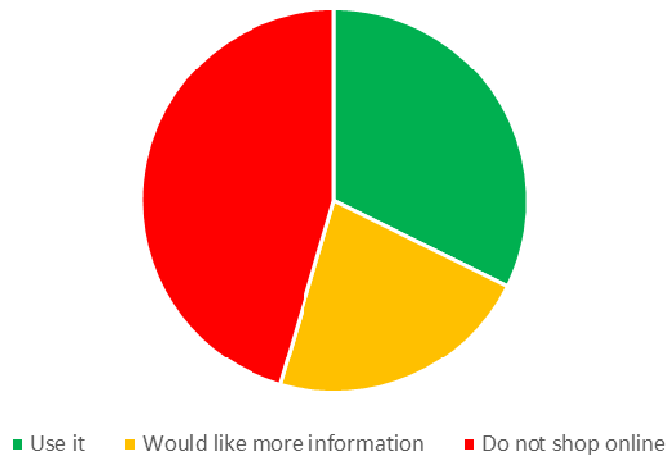
### Getting More Involved



### Which online information sources you use



### Use of Easy Fundraising



We have also decided, based on your feedback, that membership fees for Sole and Joint Members will remain unchanged in 2016. Family membership will be reduced to £20 for two adults and up to four children sharing the same address. Some members indicated in the survey that they would support an increase in membership fees. To ensure that we continue to attract members from every part of the community we would encourage anyone that is able to contribute more by making a donation.

2016 should be a fantastic year for FoR, but without your continued support we would not be able to continue. If you have already renewed your membership, thank you. If you would like to renew your membership, there are a number of ways to do so:

### **Preferred**

Complete the online renewal process at <http://friendsofraymond.org.uk/join-us>

### **Alternative**

Pay by cash, debit or credit card at the National Boat Show or contact [membership@friendsofraymond.org.uk](mailto:membership@friendsofraymond.org.uk) if you wish to renew by post.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the events or out on the Cut,

**Graham Lane**  
**Membership Officer**

## **Ron Hough**

The death of boatpainter Ron Hough in December 2015 at the age of 81 brought to an end another Braunston link to the carrying days. Ron had learnt his craft working for Frank Nurser at Samuel Barlow's yard, and later painted boats for Michael Street, founder of Blue Line Canal Carriers. Ron then transferred his skills to the growing leisure trade. Although he ceased working on boats in 2010, Ron continued to work on commissions at home because he simply enjoyed painting. His flowing signwriting can often be identified on modern boats, many of which display his special 'roses & castles' on their doors.

Ron twice applied the signwriting for Raymond following restoration. Initially, the Trustees chose the Barlows livery which gave Ron ample scope to show off his roses as well as his lettering skills. Subsequently, following the purchase of Nutfield and cabin repairs to Raymond, it was decided to put Raymond into the Blue Line livery so that the two boats would match.

Brian and I had the privilege of being in the dry dock at Braunston in April 2007 when Ron applied the Blue Line lettering to Raymond. We learnt a lot just watching and listening to Ron during the day and a half he spent with Raymond. He appeared to appreciate perching on my kitchen stool on its sturdy plank platform.



When the Friends bought Nutfield, Ron had quite recently completed the signwriting with its signature posy of roses. Although these were lost during the later cabin repairs, there are plenty of photographs showing Ron's unique work.

**Marty Seymour**



Barlows Peter Andrews



Blue Line Mike Kelly

## **A Window on the Past - ROGER and RAYMOND at Startops End**

The Friends of Raymond were delighted to receive several historic photographs for our archives recently, from Mrs. Brenda Warner of Lincolnshire. They were all taken at Startops End near Marsworth at Bridge No.132. In an attached letter she recalled seeing boats stuck in the ice, which appears to have been in 1963, and meeting Rose Bray aboard ROGER and RAYMOND.

In early 1963 there was an exceptionally severe winter. Snow started to fall in December 1962 and was still on the ground in mid-March after several blizzards carried on easterly winds and very low temperatures. It was said that January was the coldest month of the 20th century with the sea frozen off the Kent coast and ice-floes on the Thames. The thaw finally started early in March.

At the time she took these photos Brenda was cycling to Ivinghoe Youth Hostel, and when crossing Bridge No.132 along Lower Icknield Way (B489), she saw three pairs of boats tied-up below the north side of the bridge against the White Lion pub. Lock 39 is on the south-side.

Two loaded pairs were British Waterways craft with large Grand Union motors, and two steel River Class butties fitted with their characteristic fibreglass hatch covers or 'Blue Tops'. One is identified as AYE, and the other is possibly TOW, due to the distinctive layout of portholes on her cabin side, although its quite impossible to be certain.

Between them and the bridge was ROGER and RAYMOND, tied-up empty for another return trip back to the collieries. Both characteristically have their cratches or deck-boards down and still smartly turned-out despite the weather, with Arthur and Rose Bray together with Ernie Kendall aboard.

Both craft are still in Samuel Barlow Coal Company Limited livery, even though the boats had passed into the hands of Michael Streat late in the Autumn of 1961. Boats typically retained the livery of their previous owners sometimes for many years after they changed hands.

Brenda chatted to Rose Bray who told her that they had been stuck in the ice for seven weeks, and added a pessimistic note saying it was the end of their coal business. Even so she gave Brenda permission to take her photo.

Little did Rose know that it was indeed the end for the British Waterways fleet, but her employers, Blue Line, would continue on for another seven years finally unloading their last cargo at Southall early in October 1970.

The Friends of Raymond would like to thank Brenda Warner for giving us these interesting photos and for her generous cash donation towards the upkeep of NUTFIELD and RAYMOND.

**Chris M. Jones**



The view from the iron footbridge next to Bridge No.132 looking north- west towards Marsworth and its junction with the Aylesbury Branch in the distance.



Rose Bray aboard RAYMOND on that dreary winters day at Startops End.

## Maintenance Updates

### Raymond:



A lot has been happening since docking Raymond last October, just recently I had an on-site meeting with a wooden boat specialist to discuss much needed work to be done on Raymond that are beyond our enthusiastic volunteers. And, as always, maintenance is always ongoing.

### Nutfield:

Well where do I begin? I took Nutfield recently down to Pete Boyce's for some maintenance work to be done and had a dreaded phone call from Pete as to the condition of the back cabin. What we thought was going to be a few small patch repairs has turned out to be a full re-skimming of the cabin. At great expense the problem is nearly sorted

Peter found out where the water was coming in and it turned out to be from the roof so that has been done as well. Luckily all the damage is to the outer skin and has not gone through to the inner.

Nutfield will be going back to Tess wharf on the 10th of April to be finished off . Nutfield will then be going into wet dock at Braunston beginning of May where two of our volunteers are going to do all the coach work, and a mate will be doing the sign writing. So when the boats go to Ricky Nutfield will be looking smart in her new paint job.





As always volunteers are the backbone of the work done and I am grateful for all the help they give me with the boats, so if anybody would want to lend a hand please just get in touch.

**Nick Scarcliffe - Maintenance & Restoration**

**NB: All of this work is now complete.  
Some of Nick's "students" can be seen on the newsletter cover pages.**



**Grateful thanks to our Patron and Sponsors for their support**

## **A chance to win a unique prize and help raise funds for Raymond.....**

Once the event season is over in October we will be turning our attention to the restoration of Raymond's cabin. The extensive work required will involve replacing structural timbers and panels, weatherproofing, painting and sign writing. With the cost of the work is estimated at £10,000 we will be undertaking a number of special fundraising initiatives throughout the year to help fund the work

One of our Members, Viv Carter, has kindly produced a traditional crochet cabin blanket for us to raffle. You can find out more about the blanket, our fundraising target and how to purchase raffle tickets here <https://www.justgiving.com/Raymond-Blanket-Raffle> . The blanket is handmade in Raymond's Blue Line colours and measures 160cm (62in) x 160cm (62in) and involved over 100 hours of work.

Tickets cost just £2 each and remember, the more tickets you buy, the greater the chance of winning this wonderful blanket for your boat or home\*. You will be helping us even more if you could share this message with your family, friends or colleagues.

**\* The prize draw will take place at the Banbury Canal Day in October 2016**

**Cover Photographs** (all by Nick Scarcliffe) :-

**Front Cover:** James is seen here steering Nutfield for the first time, To quote Nick, " he joined us and within a week I had him on there to have a go!" Well done, James, hope you enjoyed it & come back for more.

**Back Cover :** (to quote Nick again) : "Some of our volunteers took Nutfield out to "charge the batteries" over the Christmas period to the pub near Hillmorton for lunch, we were joined by Tom Lapworth who was born and worked on the boats. Tom can regularly be seen on the pair and listening to him talking about the work they did is always great."

