

FoR News March 2022



Two pictures from April last year: on the left, Norman Townsend paints *Raymond's* elum outside Tradline Rope & Fenders at Braunston Marina, where it had sat over the winter waiting for the better weather so it could be smartened up before Pete Flockhart fitted a new set of white cotton ropework; and on the right, the elum back on *Raymond*, displaying the ropework, that was paid for by a generous donation from one of our Friends.

2022 AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 6th February. As with last year's meeting, the trustees decided it was safer for the AGM to be held online via Zoom, and 14 members attended.

The minutes of the AGM, together with the officers' reports are now available on the website. To read or download any of the AGM documents, please go to the website at friendsofraymond.org.uk, click on the Documents tab, and select a document under 2022 AGM.

Main points from the AGM

- After three years as a trustee, Clare Hewitt had decided to stand down and therefore to resign her position as chair. A vote of thanks to Clare for the time she has devoted to The Friends of Raymond was passed by the meeting, with the hope that she will continue to be an active member.
- Nick Lake took the chair for the AGM, and it was agreed that the trustees would elect a new chairman as soon as possible.
- As we had previously announced, Robin Bishop was taken seriously ill last year, with the result that he has been unable to continue in the role of secretary. The latest news from Robin's daughter was that, although his condition had improved considerably over the year, he would need to remain in residential care, which meant that, sadly, we would not see him back with us. Robin was one of our longest-standing members who, in addition to serving for a good many years as secretary and events organiser, was one of our most active and dependable volunteers. Robin will be sorely missed, and the meeting wished him well.
- Chris R Jones had agreed to step in as secretary, with Nick Lake taking over Robin's duties as events organiser, which he would combine with Clare's former role of volunteers coordinator.

- Moneywise, Friends of Raymond had ended 2021 with a balance of £6,589. In spite of increased spending on maintenance, mainly owing to work on *Raymond*, we had achieved a surplus for the year of £567. This was due in part to the fact that, although we had attended none of our regular events for the second year running, we had been able to organise a number of local events in Braunston, in part to the fundraising activities of Norman Townsend and Kath Wheeler, and in part to additional sales of jam and marmalade mostly by the Gongoozler's Rest floating café. Full details of our income and expenditure for 2021 are shown in the accounts that accompany the AGM minutes.
- On the membership side, we were pleased to note that, in spite of another year of reduced activity, we had achieved a net increase of three memberships over 2020, and that while the increase in membership rates introduced in January 2020 appeared to have had no adverse effect on membership numbers, it had provided some all-important additional income at the start of the year.
- Also in spite of our reduced event activity during 2021, we had ensured that essential maintenance continued. The biggest job had been the week's work on *Raymond* in the dry dock in July, to try again to plug the leak that had plagued us for three years, to carry out the routine docking tasks of blacking, treating the floors, and painting, and to make a start on the longer job of cutting out and repairing rotten timbers, mainly around the stem and stern posts. The meeting was pleased to hear that since the docking, *Raymond* no longer appears to be leaking. Further details of this and other work on the boats last year are in the maintenance report.
- Finally, the meeting extended its condolences to our long-serving member and former trustee Neil Hankin for the loss of his wife Jean who had passed away in October, and expressed a vote of thanks to Jeremy Cooper who, in the absence of anyone else, had offered to resume his former role as webmaster and, over the last two years, had transformed the website.

A new trustee and chairman

Our new chairman is Graham Newman. Graham was confirmed as a trustee and unanimously elected as chairman, at a specially-convened trustees' meeting on Sunday 6th March. Graham is General Manager of Braunston Marina, and we were delighted when he offered to get involved with Friends of Raymond. Graham will make a very welcome and valuable contribution to the board of trustees because, as well as the wealth of experience he brings with him, his presence will make our already-excellent working relationship with the marina even closer.

A new home for our stuff



Brian Seymour and Graham Newman by the shipping container soon after its delivery, 18th Jan 2022.

Continuing on the subject of our relationship with Braunston Marina, a very big thank you is due to our patron Tim Coghlan who has given us use of half a shipping container in which to store the mountain of "gubbins" accumulated by Friends of Raymond over the 25 years of our existence.

While some of the items destined for the container have been kept on board *Raymond*, the majority of our hoard has been stored for many years in a loft by the marina's wet dock

Among the stuff to be sorted out are historical artifacts like painted ware, boat-building tools, even Arthur Bray's bike that he rode for many miles while lock-wheeling, a filing cabinet of FoR archives, donated items for selling, crates of boat paint and tools, spare running gear etc.

The shipping container is situated in the car park beside the arm, which will make access very easy. It has been divided into two sections, insulated, and provided with lighting and power. So, as soon as we have been able to instal suitable racking in our section, we can start moving in.

A new home for Raymond

About four years ago, we tentatively raised the idea of having *Raymond* permanently moored in the arm at the marina where, when the boats were “at home”, she could be on display to the public, complementing the historical surroundings of the arm, and where we might hold occasional open days, in addition to the normal events to which we regularly take *Nutfield & Raymond*. While Tim was very open to the idea, it was simply not practical at the time because of the lack of a permanent mooring space.

Then, about three weeks ago, Graham took us all completely by surprise with the information that space had become available, and that *Raymond* could now be located in the arm. So, on Friday 11th March, *Raymond* was moved to her new mooring. This is perfect for us in a number of ways. *Raymond* is now adjacent to the new shipping container, in a position that allows vehicles to come alongside, and is on display, with easy public access, directly opposite the site on which she was originally built, and from where she was launched on 11th June 1958.

So, another big thank you is due to Tim, and to Graham, for making this happen for us.

Activities and events

While we are still awaiting confirmation of events later in the summer, what we hope will be our first full season for two years is beginning to take shape:

Fri 1st to Sun 3rd April: *Nutfield* docking (Braunston)

Fri 15th to Mon 18th April: Easter weekend work party and sales event (Braunston)

Sat 21st and Sun 22nd May: Rickmansworth Festival

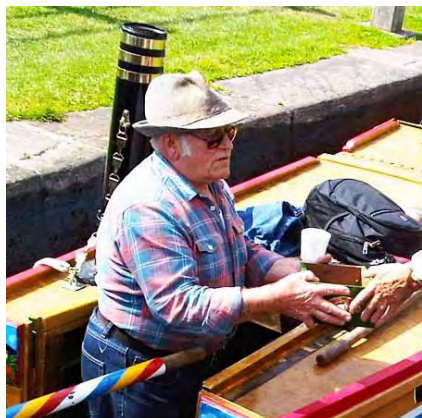
Thu 2nd to Sun 5th June: Crick Boat Show

Sat 25th and Sun 26th June: Braunston Historic Boat Rally

Fri 1st to Sun 3rd July: *Raymond* docking (Braunston)

Everyone on the volunteering list will shortly receive a more detailed schedule, but if you can help in any way, please let Nick Lake know by email at nickjlake@outlook.com or by phone on 07712 005444.

Tom Lapworth



Tom Lapworth on *Nutfield*, August 2014.

We have just received the very sad news that Tom Lapworth died suddenly at home on Friday 11th March. Our thoughts are with his wife Maureen and his family at this distressing time.

Tom was a working boatman who gave most of his life to the canals. After his retirement, he became a keen supporter and honorary member of The Friends of Raymond, and we were proud to have him as a captain whenever he was available to steer *Nutfield*.

A video of Tom and his sister-in-law Alice reminiscing about life on the boats, is on the website under About us/Photos & videos. Scroll down to find “Tom and Alice Lapworth in conversation with Steve Miles.”

The next *FoR News* will report on the docking and Easter working weekends, and will be published in late April. 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.

FoR News Editor: Nick Lake

Tel: 01869 338619

Email: newsletter@friendsofraymond.org.uk

Photographs are by the editor unless otherwise credited.

© The Friends of Raymond

No part of this newsletter may be copied or reproduced without written permission from the trustees