

FoR News May 2022



Volunteers working on *Nutfield* at Easter. L-R: Chris M Jones, Ian Mulford, Roger Golder

A new range for Raymond's cabin

We have acquired a new range for *Raymond's* cabin. We began the search after agreeing at the AGM that we should get one. Almost immediately, we had word that a refurbished range was being offered for sale by Joe Fuller at Stone. Brian Seymour and Nick Lake went up to inspect it, and agreed to the purchase without hesitation because it was exactly what we were looking for. Joe agreed to add the finishing touch of a brass fiddle rail, and the range was collected on 16th March.

The range was installed by Candle Bridge Fabrication at Braunston Marina, and it sets off *Raymond's* cabin perfectly.



The new range in Joe Fuller's workshop, 16th March 2022

We will take a picture of it in place as soon as *Raymond's* cabin has been properly dressed for the season, and this will be included in the next issue of *FoR News*.

Work parties

Nutfield was in the dry dock at the marina over the weekend of 1st to 3rd April when, as well as carrying out the customary blacking, cleaning the hold, and treating the floors, the paintwork at the fore and stern ends was repainted or retouched, the beams, planks, and gunwales were repainted, and the cabin top and sides were prepared and undercoated for re-scumbling.



Chris M Jones scumbling *Nutfield's* cabin top

Two weeks later, the work that was started in the dry dock continued over the Easter weekend in the open air, with *Nutfield* moored in the arm.

Thanks to the good weather, Chris M Jones had no problem getting *Nutfield's* cabin top and sides scumbled, and Will Hewitt was able to repaint the ram's head over the course of three days.

The mast and stands, that were sorely in need of repair and repainting, were taken away by Peter Copeland to work on at home.

Meanwhile, *Raymond* was under cover in the wet dock where Norman Townsend's skills came to the fore as he continued the work he started last year of cutting out more of the rotten timber at the fore end, plugging the holes with new wood and marine-quality filler, and repainting.

The planks, beams, and stretchers were painted by Roger & Diana Golder, as was the top of the stock cupboard that forms an important part of sales stall when we have it set up on the boat. And the cabin was thoroughly cleaned.



Norman Townsend repairing rot behind *Raymond's* stern post

An amount of largely cosmetic retouching was also done at the stern end, so that *Raymond* will at least look smart for the start of the season. More serious repair work will be continued when *Raymond* is docked in early July.



The Easter sales stall. L-R: Brian Seymour, Kath Wheeler, Frankie Morini

While the work on the boats was going on, Brian Seymour and Kath Wheeler organised an eye-catching sales stall, set up by the roving bridge over the arm.

With so many people out and about at Braunston enjoying the good weather that prevailed throughout the Easter weekend, the stall did a roaring trade every day, and brought in a substantial, and very rewarding amount of income.

Inevitably, with so much on our to-do list, there are still jobs on both boats to be completed as best we can in the week remaining before *Nutfield & Raymond* depart for the Rickmansworth Festival and the Crick Boat Show. Fortunately, there will be a window of three weeks between the Crick Boat Show and the Braunston Historic Boat Rally when more work can be done.

Over the two weekends, we had a very good show of faces to help with the work, and run the sales stall. Our volunteers were: Kevin Alder, Jim Andress, Peter Copeland, Diana Golder, Roger Golder, Rich Greenhall, Neil Hankin, Clare Hewitt, Will Hewitt, Chris M Jones, Nick Lake, Becky Longford, Frankie Morini, Ian Mulford, Graham Newman, John Onions, Brian Seymour, Norman Townsend, and Kath Wheeler. Our thanks to everyone who turned out to help.

Activities and events

At the time of writing, there is just one week to go before this year's season begins in earnest.

Rickmansworth Festival 21st and 22nd May

The first event on our calendar is the "Ricky Festival" and it will be the first time we have attended with both *Nutfield & Raymond* since 2015. Our last visit was in 2016 when only *Raymond* went, paired with *Corona*, captained by our old friend, the late Trevor Maggs.

Nutfield & Raymond will leave Braunston around midday on Monday 16th May, arriving at Rickmansworth mid-afternoon on Friday 20th. The festival itself takes place on the Saturday and Sunday and, after an absence of six years, we are hopeful that the boats will attract a lot of attention and make the trip down to Ricky a worthwhile money-earner.

As the pandemic forced the much-anticipated 50th Anniversary Jam 'Ole Run, planned for September 2020, to be called off, and as the chances of re-enacting it again grow slimmer with each passing year, we have decided to take the opportunity of doing the next best thing as the boats will be almost there. So, on Monday 23rd May, *Nutfield & Raymond* will continue south to Bulls Bridge and round on to the Paddington Arm the short distance to the site of the former entrance to Kearley & Tonge's Mitre Dock – the "Jam 'Ole" – where they will pause for a brief photo-opportunity, before returning to Cowley Lock. From there they will start the homeward journey on Tuesday 24th May, arriving at Norton Junction on the afternoon of Saturday 28th May.

Crick Boat Show 2nd to 5th June

Crick is has long been one of our most important events, and one of our biggest fundraisers. With the 2020 show cancelled owing to the pandemic, and our forced withdrawal from the rearranged show in August last year due to Raymond's emergency docking, we are certainly looking forward to this year's show. As long as the weather is on our side, the long Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend should ensure a large number of visitors – hopefully, with money in their pockets.



Nutfield & Raymond at The Crick Boat Show, May 2019

Having returned from Ricky on Saturday 28th, *Nutfield & Raymond* will stay at Norton Junction until Tuesday 31st May, when they will move up to Crick Marina. Wednesday 1st June will then be spent preparing the boats and setting up the sales stall in readiness for what promises to be a busy four days.

After we have packed everything up on the Sunday evening, the boats will leave Crick early on Monday 6th June to return to Braunston.

Braunston Historic Boat Rally 25th and 26th June



Nutfield & Raymond at lead the parade at Braunston, June 2018

Yet another event that has been forced to take a two-year break, this year's rally will be a "big one" for *Nutfield & Raymond*.

Owing to the fact that their steamer is still undergoing repairs, The Friends of President's *President & Kildare* will be unable to lead the opening parade as planned, so Tim Coghlan has asked if *Nutfield & Raymond* will lead it instead, with guests of honour Timothy West and Prunella Scales.

This means, of course, that we will have to be very busy in the three weeks after the Crick Boat Show finishing off all the remaining jobs, to ensure that the boats look their best for the big day. But quite apart from the additional work we will need to put in this year, the Friday before the rally is always a busy day, preparing the boats and setting up the sales gazebo and the "market stalls" next to it.

The opening parade will take place on the Saturday morning from about 10 o'clock, but once the boats have returned to their mooring in the arm, our main focus will be on sales, to take advantage of the large number of visitors attracted to the rally. As well as our regular items on sale in the gazebo, including Jam 'Ole Jam and Marmalade, the additional space available to us at the rally allows us to have a number of "market stalls" outside where we can display all manner of canal and loosely-associated memorabilia, and other items donated to us, which always attract a great deal of interest. So, with fingers crossed for what is more often than not, a-sunny weekend, we are hoping for another record-breaking year.

Volunteering and visiting

We have had a very encouraging response to our appeals for help, both with these events themselves and with moving the boats to and from them, but we can always use more. So, if you think you could lend a hand in any way, and have not contacted us already, do please get in touch with Nick Lake at nickjlake@outlook.com or on 07712 005444.

Of course, these events are also simply a great day out for visitors. So if you decide to go to any of them, do be sure to find us and say hello.

Events later in the year

Fri 1st to Sun 3rd July:	<i>Raymond</i> docking at Braunston
Sat 23rd and Sun 25th July:	Buckingham Canal Festival (Cosgrove) still TBC
Sat 30th July:	Linslade Canal Festival (Leighton Buzzard)
Sat 27th to Mon 29th August	<i>Nutfield & Raymond</i> at Stoke Bruerne

The next *FoR News* will report on the Ricky Festival, the Crick Boat show, the Braunston Historic Boat Rally, and *Raymond's* docking, and will be published in July. 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.

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