

## FoR News June 2019



Boating on a spring day. Alice Lapworth on *Raymond* near Yelvertoft, May 2019.

### News

#### 2019 Braunston Historic Boat Rally 29th & 30th June

The Rally and Canal Festival is taking place this weekend. Over 60 historic working boats and tugs are expected to be there including, of course, *Nutfield & Raymond*. Other attractions include exhibitors, traders, waterways artists, live music, fast food and real ale tent. The Friends of Raymond's own sales stall will be in its regular spot alongside the marina arm and, when they're not taking part in a parade, our boats can be found on the towpath near the marina entrance, where *Raymond* will be open for visitors.

At 10am on the Saturday morning, before the opening parade of boats, there will be a small ceremony to unveil a plaque in memory of Aubrey Berriman, who built *Raymond* in 1958, and whose death we announced in the March issue of FoR News.

#### Boat exchange with Narrow Boat Trust

The FoR trustees have had further talks with the trustees of the Narrow Boat Trust and reached an agreement for them to borrow *Nutfield* to work with butty *Brighton* on their autumn coal run this year. In return, NBT will loan us their motorboat *Nuneaton* and will share the profit from the load carried on *Nutfield*. As NBT's boats are based at Alvecote Marina, the handover will probably take place at the Historic Boat Gathering there on the weekend of 24th and 25th August, although their coal run does not begin until mid-September. We will, therefore, be using *Nuneaton* to take *Raymond* to our final event of the year, which is the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust boat gathering at Huddlesford Junction on 21st and 22nd September. *Nutfield* will be returned at the end of October.

#### 2019 Braunston Literary Festival 14th September

Tim Coghlan, FoR's patron and owner of Braunston Marina, has announced that this year's Braunston Literary Festival will take place at Braunston Marina on Saturday 14th September. Appearances already confirmed are Timothy West and Prunella Scales (*Our Great Canal Journeys*), Anthony Burton (*The Great Days of the Canals* etc), D.H.Clacher (*Muddy Waters* children's books), Leo McNeir (*Death In Little Venice* etc), Sister Angela Leach (*A Nun's Story*) and Tom Chaplin (*Narrow Boats*). In addition The Canal Bookshop, North Oxfordshire Wines, and of course The Friends of Raymond will be there. In the evening there will be entertainment, with Shakespeare readings from Tim and Pru, plus music from Shakespeare's plays. This is definitely a date for the diaries of everyone with an interest in the stories of our canals and their boats, past and present, not to mention a bit of culture. We will let everyone know about ticket details when they are announced.

## Programme for 2019

### June

Sat 29th and Sun 30th at Braunston Marina  
Braunston Historic Narrow Boat Rally.

### July

**Fri 5th to Wed 10th at Braunston Marina**

*Raymond* in dry dock.

**Sat 20th and Sun 21st at Cosgrove** (below Cosgrove Lock)

Cosgrove Canal Festival.

**Sat 27th at Leighton Buzzard** (Tiddenfoot Waterside Park)

Linslade Canal Festival.

### August

**Sat 10th and Sun 11th at Blisworth**

Blisworth Festival.

**Sat 24th and Sun 25th at Alvecote Marina, Tamworth**

Historic boat gathering.

### September

**Sat 14th at Braunston Marina**

Braunston Literary Festival.

**Sat 21st and Sun 22nd at Huddlesford Junction, Coventry Canal**

Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust boat gathering.

### October

**Docking weekend postponed**

As *Raymond* is being docked in July, and *Nutfield* will not be available before November, the docking weekend has been postponed until spring 2020. Dates will be announced later this year.

The Friends of Raymond attend events not only to raise money to help preserve our boats but also to fulfil our commitment to preserving the knowledge of their history, by helping members of the public learn about the boats and how life was lived on board them in their working days. We always need help at the events we attend, and would be most grateful to anyone who is willing to lend a hand. Our Volunteers Coordinator, Diana Golder, will shortly be sending out details of the next events and of the boat movements to and from them, but if you would like to help at any of the events above please, contact Diana now. She can be reached by email at [volunteering@friendsofraymond.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@friendsofraymond.org.uk) or by phone at 01296 623026.

## The year so far

### April

**Easter working party**



Norman Townsend and Nick Scarcliffe.

A sunny weekend and a good turnout of volunteers enabled us to get everything on the list completed by Sunday afternoon. This included finishing *Nutfield*'s engine room tidy-up and clean out of the engine bilge, servicing the engine, clearing, tidying and cleaning *Nutfield*'s cabin, putting back the fittings and soft furnishings in *Raymond*'s cabin after the winter and applying a coat of varnish to *Raymond*'s cabin roof.

One notable triumph of the weekend was the discovery of our long-lost exhaust pipe cap at the back of the engine bilge into which it must have fallen at least two years ago.



Norman Townsend with the missing exhaust cap.



Diana Golder and Clare Hewitt spring cleaning.

Volunteers over the Easter weekend were Nikki Evans, Diana Golder, Roger Golder, Clare Hewitt, Phoebe Hewitt, Will Hewitt, Nick Lake, Nick Scarcliffe, Brian Seymour and Norman Townsend.

## May

### New fenders for *Nutfield*

On the afternoon of Friday 10th May, a group of volunteers gathered at the marina mooring to make the boats ready for the move to Welford, our first outing of the year. But the main event of the afternoon was the arrival of Pete Flockhart from Tradline Rope and Fenders to fit the two new tipcats he had made for *Nutfield*. These are big (and beautiful) working boat fenders and, watching Pete in action, we appreciated why he said it would be best if he fitted them himself.



Pete Flockhart gets the fenders into position...



then makes some fine adjustments.

By 4.45 the rest of crew had arrived and the boats were ready to go.

### Moving the boats to Welford

At five o'clock on the dot, the boats left the marina in the charge of Will Hewitt and arrived at Norton Junction at about 7.15, after which the crew headed for The New Inn to toast the start of another season or, at least, that was the justification.

The next morning, Saturday 11th May, the boats were away from Norton Junction by 8.30, with a new crew and Nick Scarcliffe in command. After a short delay at Watford, the pair were up the locks in under an hour and on their way to Welford. They were tied up above Welford Lock by 5.30, to wait until they could be taken down to the end of the arm for the festival the following weekend.



Alice Lapworth steers *Raymond* out of Lock 2.



*Raymond* in the Watford staircase.



Nick Scarcliffe and John Onions on *Nutfield*.



*Raymond* at Bridge 37.

Volunteers on 10th May were Diana Golder, Roger Golder, Clare Hewitt, Will Hewitt, Nick Lake, Brian Seymour and Norman Townsend.

Volunteers on 11th May were Caroline Brudenell, Nikki Evans, Neil Hankin, Nick Lake, Alice Lapworth, John Onions, Nick Scarcliffe and Norman Townsend.



There go the boats. *Nutfield* & *Raymond* seen from Bridge 37.

### “Welford at 50” weekend



*Nutfield* & *Raymond* at Welford May 2019.

We took *Nutfield* & *Raymond* to Welford in 2017 and 2018, when we arranged our own event. But those were quite low-key affairs compared to the event we attended over the weekend of 18th and 19th May. This was a festival organised jointly by the Old Union Canals Society and Canal & River Trust to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the reopening of the Welford Arm which was restored by the OUCS in 1969.

*Nutfield & Raymond* were given pride of place in “The Finger”, the small basin in front of The Wharf Inn, with our sales gazebo pitched on the grass right beside the boats.

And with our new A-boards and other new signage on display for the first time, Friends of Raymond were able to put on a very good show.

The fine weather and the numerous attractions arranged by OUCS, attracted a large number of visitors to the festival, many of whom came to the boats and our sales stall, so the combination of donations from visitors to *Raymond* and takings from sales resulted in a profitable weekend.



The new A-boards on display at Welford.



Will Hewitt's painting attracts attention.



Neil Hankin conducts a show-round on *Raymond*.

After the show closed on the Saturday, 13 FoR members gathered in the Canal Room at The Wharf Inn for a convivial social evening.

Volunteers at Welford were Robin Bishop, Diana Golder, Roger Golder, Neil Hankin, Clare Hewitt, Will Hewitt, Chris R Jones, Nick Lake, John Onions and Brian Seymour.

The boats remained in The Finger until Tuesday 21st May when Neil Hankin and Robin Bishop, plus three other members from the Husbands Bosworth area moved them down to Crick Marina for the Crick Boat Show starting on the Friday.

Volunteers on 21st May were Robin Bishop, John Blay, Melvyn Forman, Neil Hankin and Deborah Sharpe.

### **Crick Boat Show**

This year, the show adopted a new format, with the Friday before the bank holiday weekend being a “preview” day. So, with the set-up day as well, the five days from Thursday 23rd to Monday 27th May, made it a very long weekend. But as it turned out, it was also a very good one for us.



The boats and the gazebo at the 2018 Crick Boat Show

After the show last year, we reported that the location for the historic boats being on the far side of the marina from the showground, together with the pitch for our sales gazebo being away from the boats, at the top of a steep bank, had resulted in a dramatic fall in our takings. In fact, last year's takings were so low compared to previous years that we had considered whether it was worth our while attending the show again.

When we put this point to the show organisers earlier in the year, it was without much expectation. But not only did they offer to look again at the siting of the historic boats, but they also generously agreed to waive the fee for our gazebo pitch.

As a result of the decision to relocate the historic boats at this year's show, *Nutfield & Raymond* were given a spot on the side of the marina next to the showground, in a perfect position which not only made them unmissable but also ensured that every visitor to the boats on show in the marina itself was bound to pass by. And to our great satisfaction, many of them did not pass by, but instead stopped to look at the boats.



*Nutfield & Raymond* at Crick this year.



The sales gazebo at this year's show.

And with our gazebo sited on the grass immediately adjacent to *Nutfield & Raymond*, so that visitors had to pass between the boats and the gazebo, the number who stopped to buy, visit *Raymond* or simply leave us a donation was such that our takings were up by nearly 50% on last year. And without a sizeable percentage of the takings going on the fee for the gazebo pitch, this year's Crick Boat Show proved to be our most profitable ever.

We are indebted to the organisers of the show for their support and have expressed the hope that we might have the same site next year.

Volunteers at the Crick Boat Show were Robin Bishop, Clare Hewitt, Phoebe Hewitt, Chris R Jones, Nick Lake, John Onions and Brian Seymour.

On the morning of Tuesday 28th May, the boats were moved from Crick Marina up to North Kilworth to be ready to take the Year Six children from Husbands Bosworth Primary School on their annual trip through Husbands Bosworth Tunnel.

Volunteers on 28th May were Robin Bishop, Neil Hankin and Nick Lake.

## June

### School outing cancelled

It had rained all night and was still raining hard when Melvyn Forman and Nick Lake, the crew for the school outing, arrived at Neil Hankin's house on the morning of Thursday 13th June, to be met with the news that the school had cancelled because of the weather. This was a great disappointment all round, not least to the already-bedraggled crew, who wined the boats and headed back to Crick from where they had started two weeks previously. At least by the time they arrived at 3.30 it had stopped raining.

### Return to Braunston

The final leg of the homeward journey on Saturday 15th June, was altogether better. The boats were away from Crick by 8.25, aiming to arrive at Watford Locks by 9.15 to join the expected queue waiting for the locks to open at 10.00. But when *Nutfield & Raymond* got there at 9.10 there were no boats and the friendly lock-keeper allowed *Nutfield* into the top lock at 9.50. The boats left the bottom lock at exactly 10.30, rounded Norton Junction at 11.10, arrived at Braunston Top Lock at 12.05 and were tied up in the marina at 1.15. By 1.45, the crew were settled in The Old Plough after a good morning's boating.



*Nutfield & Raymond* in the cutting before Crick Tunnel.



Into the tunnel.



Norman Townsend on *Nutfield* in Lock 6 at Watford.



Will Hewitt guides, Chris R Jones does the heaving.



Brian Seymour steers *Raymond* out of the staircase.



Round the bend at Norton Junction.



Clare Hewitt and the *Raymond* crew.



Home at last. Coming into the marina.

Volunteers on 15th June were Clare Hewitt, Will Hewitt, Liam Hewlett, Chris M Jones, Chris R Jones, Nick Lake, Ian Mulford, John Onions, Brian Seymour and Norman Townsend.

## Note from the editor

Pressure of other FoR commitments has meant that, in order to actually get the June issue out in June, I have had to restrict the content purely to news. However, I am hopeful that there will be more time to allow some of the planned features to be included in the next issue, which will be published in August.

Meanwhile, Diana Golder has asked that we include a mention of our thanks to the staff and management of Snappy Snaps in Aylesbury for the help they give with printing the large number of photographs required for her cards, the sale of which makes a significant contribution to our income, and for the generous discount they allow, which helps greatly to increase the cards' profitability.



Diana's cards on the sales stall.

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.

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