

Friends of Raymond A.G.M. February 2nd 2025.
Boat Maintenance Report.

Nutfield:

To complete refurbishment works done in the cabin last winter, new smoke and CO alarms were installed and cupboard door furniture was replaced or renewed as necessary. The mushroom roof vent has also been fixed open to comply with BSC requirements, following inspection in June.

At the Easter docking, two coats of blacking were applied, the roof re-scumbled and re-varnished with the handrails being repainted. Rotten wood was removed from the gunnels, which were filled and repainted as was the back deck. Our new coal box was painted and beautifully decorated by Will who also painted a splendid decoration above the bed in the cabin. Some touching up was also done to the cabin sides and the doors were painted.

Nutfield was partially clothed up over lowered top planks (supported by blocks on the cross planks) for travelling this year to allow accommodation in the hold. This arrangement worked quite well and remains in place. During running it became evident that the Lister's throttle needed adjustment to prevent stalling and this has since been done.

Raymond:

In previous years, we have claimed exemption for Raymond from the Boat Safety Scheme but this year it was agreed that as we now have a working stove and 12v electrics on board we should have the boat certified. This was done by Rupert Smedley in June who raised a few issues:- the battery in the cabin had to be secured and an isolator switch fitted, together with a label plate; new smoke and CO detectors were fitted and the mushroom vent fixed open. In addition more ventilation was required (for the stove) and so, as a temporary fix, the bottom edge of the hold door was cut short leaving an air gap. This door will soon need to be replaced, at which time a permanent vent grille can be fitted.

Another requirement was a secure storage box for gas stove cylinders which has been provided under the access steps in the hold. Our remedial works were to Rupert's satisfaction and the BSC was duly issued.

A new coal box, made earlier in the year, was painted and decorated by Will Hewitt and looks lovely in the cabin.

Several of us, becoming less agile with age, now find it difficult to climb into the hatches from the bank when Raymond is moored alongside

therefore a short ladder has been provided which hooks over either side to enable easier access.

Raymond was clothed up in December and with the automatic bilge pumps dealing with the small amount of rainwater that does get in, the internal woodwork stays reasonably dry.

Drawers and cupboard doors are currently left open and soft furnishings have been removed from both boats for winter storage as normal. Heaters have been put into both cabins to help reduce damp. Raymond is displayed in the arm near the towpath bridge with our new banner on and Nutfield is moored at the far end of the marina as before.

Planned work:

There are various jobs outstanding, apart from the usual blacking, painting and wood preservative requirements.

Firstly on Nutfield, the stern gland needs attention to minimise leakage, either to tighten or possibly replace the gland packing: the mastbox- which unfortunately caught on the underside of bridge 114 at Napton- needs repair and redecoration: the engine room is long overdue for cleaning and repainting,- (being mindful of preserving Ron Hough's decoration) and the range needs to be replaced.

We also want to replace some top cloths to suit the lower level of clothing up that we are now using. The full size cloths purchased three years ago can be used to replace worn out cloths on Raymond. This will ensure that both boats not only keep rainwater out but also look smarter.

Raymond will be dry docked at Easter for the usual attention to and replacement of rotting woodwork, cleaning, blacking, wood preserver treatment, painting, etc. In particular, the stem and stern posts, cants and Ash trims at the hatches, plus the deck board, which will probably need a complete rebuild. Also, the cabin sides need attention to cracks and decoration and the fore and stern deck areas likewise.

The list goes on and your support and help in this is greatly needed and would be much appreciated. Please book the docking in your diary and come along to lend a hand. The dates are April 18th to 22nd inclusive.

Finally, our thanks go to all those people who have helped and contributed in whatever way during the past year. It is appreciated. Without your continued support, Raymond, and Nutfield, cannot survive for future generations to enjoy. Thank You.

Norman Townsend. January 27th 2025