

The Friends of Raymond

Events & Volunteering Report to AGM 2nd February 2025

2024

As already outlined in the Chairman's Report, we took *Nutfield & Raymond* to four events, attended two others by road, but were unable to get to the Banbury Canal Festival. In between the main shows, Norman Townsend and Kath Wheeler, sometimes assisted by Brian Seymour, ran our sales stall at the marina at Easter, and took it to a number of other local fundraising events.

In spite of the shortage of crew for the Batchworth and Brownhills trips, overall, we had a great deal of help from volunteers in 2024. No less than 26 members, about a third of our membership, helped in one way or another during the year. Apart from the more obvious help such as crewing, maintenance, and events, this help included the work of the committee and the officers that goes on continuously behind the scenes to make the charity function, not forgetting of course, our webmaster Jeremy Cooper, who operates in quiet isolation maintaining and updating our website. Our thanks go out to everyone who was involved during 2024.

2025

The first issue of our events schedule for 2025 has already been circulated, and the response so far has been encouraging. The main events in our programme for the coming year are:

Fri-18 to Wed-23-Apr	RAYMOND in dry dock and pop-up sales event Easter weekend
Sat-17 & Sun-18-May	Batchworth Boat Rally
Sat-07 & Sun-08-Jun	Harborough '75 gathering
Sat-28 & Sun-29-Jun	Braunston Historic Boat Rally
Thu-03-Jul	Evening visit by Barby History Group (plus short boat trip)
Sat-19 & Sun-20-Jul	Cosgrove Canal Festival
Sat-26-Jul	Linslade Canal Festival
Sat-16 & Sun-17-Aug	Brownhills Canal Festival (possibly attending by road, TBC)
Dates TBA	Saltisford Canal Trust various, events
Sat-20 & Sun-21 Sep	Huddlesford Heritage Gathering
Sat-04 & Sun-05-Oct	Banbury Canal Festiva

In between events happening away from Braunston we will, of course, need to move *Nutfield & Raymond*, the proposed dates for which are shown in the recent issue of the full events schedule.

We always need help with maintenance work parties like dockings, and with moving the boats, either as on-board crew or lock-wheelers. But we are starting to notice a shortage of help with sales and show-rounds at events. So, although some of the dates in our programme are still several months away, if anyone feels they might be able to help with any of our activities this year they would be warmly welcomed, and encouraged to register their interest, without commitment, to Nick Lake at nickjlake@outlook.com.

Nick Lake
Events Organiser/Volunteers Coordinator
28th January 2025