

FoR News March 2025



Sunshine after the rain. September evening at Hillmorton Picture: Frankie Morini

News

2025 AGM Minutes

The minutes of this year's AGM are now available to read on the website. Click [here](#) to see the minutes, or go to the Documents & Archives tab on the website home page and click on 'AGM 2025' where you can see all the documents relating to the AGM.

Work on the boats

While *Nutfield* & *Raymond* remain winterised, we have already made a start on some of the spring jobs.

With a view to getting a new silencer, we removed the old one and discovered that, in spite of its age, it was in generally good condition although the original baffling inside was missing, which would tend to account for the volume of the exhaust.

As the silencer is of an outdated design, an off-the-shelf replacement is unfeasible but as the silencer body is sound, we have opted for a new baffle assembly that can be inserted into it. This will be made by Candle Bridge Fabrication at the marina, and should be ready by Easter.

We have also placed the order for the new, non-standard top cloth to cover the tent in *Nutfield*'s hold. Hopefully, this will also be ready by Easter.

Programme for 2025

As we reported last month, the events in April, May, and June are:

Fri-18 to Wed-23-Apr	<i>Raymond</i> in dry dock Plus pop-up sales event at Braunston Marina, Easter weekend
Sat-17 & Sun-18-May	Batchworth Boat Rally at Rickmansworth
Sat-07 & Sun-08-Jun	Harborough '75 gathering at Foxton
Sat-28 & Sun-29-Jun	Braunston Historic Boat Rally

We have had an encouraging response from members offering help, but there are always gaps to be filled, and any help with the docking, with the events themselves, or with moving the boats between events, even if just for the odd day, or part of a day, will be gratefully received as always. If you would like to get involved and have not told us already, please contact Nick Lake at nickjlak@outlook.com or on 07712 005444.

Northants Heritage Fair Sunday 27th April



We are attending this non-waterways event at the Chester House Estate near Wellingborough in conjunction with Pete Boyce and his 'Lucy Project', under the banner of 'Braunston Wooden Boats Heritage Group'. Pete is restoring *Raymond's* sister boat *Lucy* at Tess Wharf by Braunston Turn.

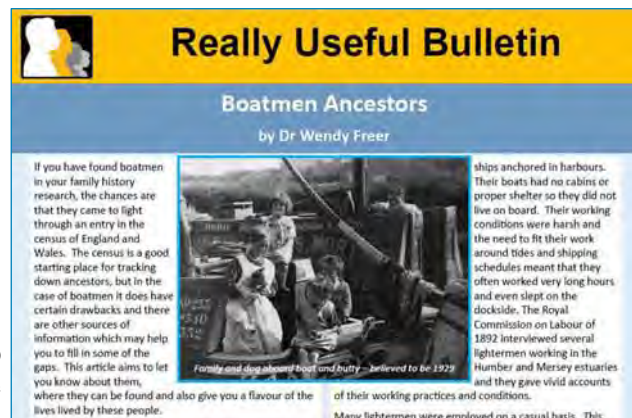
The fair is already fully booked, with 48 exhibitors, plus talks, archive film shows, archaeological tours, and children's activities. Admission and parking are free so, quite apart from the opportunity of seeing us, a visit to the fair promises to be a good day out!

Click [here](#) for more information.

Boatmen Ancestors

FoR member Keith Griffiths has brought to our attention an article entitled 'Boatmen Ancestors' in the February issue of the Family History Federation's monthly bulletin. The article by Dr Wendy Freer, an authority on the genealogy of boat people, and writer of several books on the subject, contains a great deal of historical information of general, not just genealogical interest.

Debbie Bradley at FHF has allowed us to share this article, and had has given us the link to their bulletins online.



To find the article, go to www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk/bulletins and click on the February 2025 issue of the 'Really Useful Bulletin'. Debbie has also asked us to encourage any of our members who are interested in tracing their family history to explore the resources on their website (click 'Home' at the top of the bulletin page) and to subscribe to their free monthly bulletin (click 'Subscribe').

FoR members' Airbnb in Braunston

News just in: Will & Clare Hewitt now have a two-double bed cottage in the centre of Braunston on Airbnb – ideal for Friends attending work parties, the Braunton Historic Rally, etc. Click [here](#) for details, or search 'Braunston' on www.airbnb.co.uk and look for 'Home in Braunston hosted by Clare'.

Catching up

There are a number of articles and pictures that, regrettably, never got published. So in this issue, we will start catching up with a montage of pictures from our busy year in 2023.



July 2023. *Nutfield* & *Raymond* going to Cosgrove pass through Brockhall Spinney below Buckby Picture: Matthew Deer

Pictures from March to May 2023



March: painting Nutfield at Brinklow



April: removing Raymond's old side cloths



April: work on Raymond's cabin



May: on the Tring Summit going to Ricky
Picture: Mike Bowley



May: at the Ricky Festival



May: at Berkhamsted on the way home Picture: Frankie Morini

Pictures from June and July 2023



June: new gunwales for *Raymond* at Brinklow



June: Braunston Historic Rally, FoR sales stall



June: Braunston Historic Rally, opening parade
Picture: Tim Coghlan



June: Braunston Historic Rally,
Tim's cheque presentation
Picture: Simon Ainley



July: in Buckby Top Lock, going to Cosgrove
Picture: Matthew Deer



July: a soggy day for Norman & Kath at the Cosgrove Festival...

Pictures from late July to September 2023



July: but a sunny day a week later at Linslade



August: fitting side cloths on *Raymond*



August: *Raymond* with new side cloths



August: Norman fitting stern bilge pumps...



August: ...and proving the pumps work!



September: Will taking the turn at Suttons, going to Huddlesford
Picture: Frankie Morini

Pictures from September and December 2023



September: the FoR gazebo at Huddlesford



September: the FoR team at Huddlesford



September: Nutfield & Raymond at Huddlesford



September: round Suttons again, going home
Picture: © Andrew Hayward



December: Nutfield with new doors grained and decorated by Will. Picture: Will Hewitt



December: Details of Will's roses on Nutfield's doors and weather board – Will added the castles the following Easter. Picture: Will Hewitt

Editor's note

I will aim to publish another *FoR News* in the first week of May, after the Easter docking and the Northants Heritage Fair, but before the boats head off to Ricky for the Batchworth Boat Rally.

It is now six years since *FoR News* carried the special Restoration & Maintenance report in the April 2019 issue, when we reported that we had spent £30,665 on *Nutfield & Raymond* in the preceding two years. Since that report, we have spent not far short of that amount again, and it is time to set out once more exactly how the charity has been spending the money it has received.

So, in the May issue, as well as reporting on the first two events of the year, and catching up on some more unpublished items, we will report on what has been achieved with both boats, particularly with *Raymond*, in the last six years, and what it has cost.



Another shot by Matthew Deer of *Nutfield & Raymond* on their way to Cosgrove on Sunday 16th July 2023

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Photographs are by the editor unless otherwise credited

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