

# Newsletter for April 2025

Dear Friends

Here is an update on what we've been doing, and a reminder of what's coming up in the next few weeks.

## This month

Next Thursday afternoon, 17th April, *Raymond* will go into the dry dock at the marina for a week, and we'll bring *Nutfield* round into the arm. Over the week, we're aiming to carry out a considerable amount of work on both boats.

We will also have our sales stall in the gazebo adjacent to *Nutfield* over the Easter weekend.

In the last two weeks we have taken delivery of the new top cloth for *Nutfield*, and the new baffles for *Nutfield's* silencer. These will be fitted during the week, along with the new tipcat fender made for us over the winter by Tradline Rope & Fenders. And at the same time, we hope to take delivery of a replacement range for *Nutfield's* cabin.

We have also bought four "intermediate bulk containers" (IBCs) that will be put into *Nutfield's* hold, before the top cloth is fitted, and filled with water. Each IBC holds 1,000 litres which weighs one tonne, so the four tonnes of additional ballast should adjust the trim of the boat so that the fore end is about a foot lower than it is at present. This will not only improve the appearance and the swim of the boat, but it will also bring *Nutfield's* fore deck down closer to the level of *Raymond's* which will make crossing between the boats safer and easier when breasting up, especially in wet weather.

On Thursday 24th April, after *Raymond* has come out of the dry dock, we will take *Nutfield* down to Napton and back to confirm that she will now go through Lock 12, following CRT's maintenance work at the lock in January.

If the trial run is successful, we'll book the boats to attend this year's Banbury Canal Festival on the first weekend in October.

And finally, on Sunday 27th April we are attending the Northants Heritage Fair in conjunction with Pete Boyce's 'Lucy Project' – Pete is restoring *Raymond's* sister boat *Lucy* at Tess Wharf in Braunston. The fair is at the Chester House Estate near Wellingborough, and will have 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.

## Next month

Our season starts in earnest in May when we take *Nutfield* & *Raymond* down to Rickmansworth for the Batchworth Boat Rally on the weekend of 17th & 18th May. The boats will leave Braunston on Monday 12th to arrive around lunchtime on the Friday, and will return the following week. We expect the boats to be back in Braunston on Friday 23rd May. As we said in last month's *FoR News*, any offers of help, on any day, or days, will be gratefully received.

We'll report on all of the above, and more, in the May *FoR News* that will be issued after the boats return from Rickmansworth.

With kind regards

Nick

Nick Lake

FoR News Editor

Email: [newsletter@friendsofraymond.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@friendsofraymond.org.uk)

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