



# News

## Newsletter for June 2025

Dear Friends

I promised a full edition of *FoR News* would be issued after the Batchworth Boat Rally, but work on the boats has been so intense since our return that there has been no time in which to do it. However, here is another update on recent and upcoming events and activities.

### Last month

#### **Invitation to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Raymond's rebuild.**

Early last month we sent out an invitation to all members and their families to join us on Sunday 6th July at the Boat House in Braunston for a social gathering to mark this occasion, and to have a trip on board *Nutfield & Raymond*. The response so far has been disappointing to say the least. We fully appreciate that not everyone lives within a practical distance of Braunston, but perhaps we misjudged the general interest in seeing the boats and meeting other FoR members.

However, if you might be inclined to come but have simply not told us yet do, please, reply to this email and let us know because at the moment the probable attendees number little more than the committee members, which rather casts doubt on the worth of holding the gathering at all.

### **Other news**

We attended the Batchworth Boat Rally held at Rickmansworth on the weekend of 17th and 18th May. We only took *Nutfield* because of the ongoing work on *Raymond* but, even so, the journey there and back was challenging at times owing to the poor state of the Grand Union Canal south of Berkhamsted, and Roger and Nick, who crewed, are indebted to all the help they received along the way from Kevin Alder, Mike Bowley, James Griffin, Neil Hankin, Nick Scarcliffe, Norman Townsend, and Paul Weal.

Norman & Kath, and Diana came to Rickmansworth by road to staff the gazebo, and we are very grateful to Christine Thompson for arranging a pitch for us at short notice – once we knew we couldn't bring *Raymond*. We had a very successful weekend and it is probably fair to say that we did more business from the gazebo than we might have done with the stall on the boat.

*Nutfield* was back in the marina by 10.00 on Friday 23rd May.

Pete Boyce has now completed the work on *Raymond's* stern and, on Thursday 22nd May with Norman's help, he returned her to the marina arm using his boat *Renfrew*. Since then, work on making *Raymond* (and to some extent *Nutfield*) ready to go to Foxton has been relentless.

### This month

*Nutfield & Raymond* will leave for the Harborough '75 event at Foxton on Thursday 5th June, arriving around midday on Friday. The event itself is this coming weekend, 7th & 8th June.

If anyone wishes to visit the event, *Nutfield & Raymond* will be moored immediately north of Bridge 60, Gumley Road Bridge, the last bridge before Foxton Locks. Parking is in the CRT long-stay car park at the top of the locks off Gumley Road – parking charges apply I'm afraid.

On Saturday, *Nutfield* will descend the locks soon after 09.15 to take part in a day-long cavalcade of boats, many of which will be historic boats, to Market Harborough and back. We will return to Braunston on Monday 8th June, pausing en route to give a boat trip through Bosworth Tunnel to children from Husbands Bosworth Primary School. This is something Neil Hankin used to organise annually but we haven't been able to do it for the last few years. Neil is once again organising this trip. And we hope to have the boats back at Braunston no later than Tuesday morning.

*Raymond* will be in the wet dock at the marina from Friday 21st to Wednesday 25th June for us to finish off painting the repaired woodwork. Meanwhile, Peter Copeland is painting the deck board which Will Hewitt will decorate, together with adding decoration to the boat and repainting the name, during the docking. Once the stern cants have been painted, Pete Boyce will add the finishing touch of the traditional ash strips on the top surfaces.

Then, from Thursday 26th June we will start preparing the boats for the Braunston Historic Boat Rally which takes place on the weekend of 28th & 29th June. This year, in addition to *Nutfield & Raymond* taking part in the normal Saturday and Sunday parades, we have agreed with the rally organisers to make the boats available to give boat trips at intervals during both days in return for optional donations – we can't make a straight charge because of licencing, insurance, and skipper-qualification issues. The timing of any trips we do is still to be agreed. We will also have our large sales and market-stall area set up beside the arm with more stock than ever to be sold this year.

#### Next month

On the evening of Thursday 3rd July we will be welcoming members of the Barby History Group to the marina, to see the boats and have a talk from Tim Coghlan on the history of the arm and the surrounding area, after which we will give them a short boat trip.

We will then have our regular July dates with the Cosgrove Canal Festival on the weekend of 19th and 20th July, and the Linslade Canal Festival the following weekend on Saturday 26th July.

I will aim to issue the rescheduled edition of *FoR News*, complete with pictures, sometime in the week beginning 7th July.

With kind regards

Nick

Nick Lake  
FoR News Editor  
Email: [newsletter@friendsofraymond.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@friendsofraymond.org.uk)  
Tel: 07712 005444