



# News

## News Update 16th July 2025

Dear Friends

I did promise that a full issue of *FoR News*, complete with pictures would be out by this week. However life, both FoR and personal, has been rather more hectic than I'd expected and I'm still sorting out pictures. So for now, here's an update on what we've been doing in the last month, and a reminder of what's coming up.

### Recovering *Nutfield & Raymond* from Foxton

*Nutfield's* gearbox having been repaired at Foxton on Monday 16th June, we moved *Nutfield & Raymond* down to Crick on Wednesday 18th, and on to Braunston on Thursday 19th, arriving around 2.30, in time for *Raymond* to go straight into the wet dock.

### Painting *Raymond*

Over the following week, we managed to repaint all the repair work that had been carried out on *Raymond*, while Peter Copeland repainted the by now, very scruffy deck board at home, so *Raymond* was looking smart for the rally, albeit minus the name on the stern and decoration on the fore end. Unfortunately, it looks as if we'll have to wait until the autumn before we can complete that part of the work.

### Braunston Historic Boat Rally

The sun shone, the band played, and the boats paraded without any of the congestion that has held up proceedings in years past which all made for a very enjoyable rally. While some of us looked after the boating side, our sales team worked their socks off on the FoR stalls beside the arm, and had a very successful weekend clearing a great deal of donated bric-a-brac as well as our regular items.

As ever, our thanks are due to Tim Coghlan and his team for putting on an excellent event and, of course, to Tim for his very kind donation.

### Visit from Barby History Group

On the evening of Thursday 3rd July we entertained a group of 10 members of the Barby History Group. We had given the group our talk on *Raymond* back in November but they had expressed an interest in seeing the boats for themselves which we suggested would be best done on a mid-summer evening, and so it proved to be. Tim kindly gave the group a guided tour of the canal history of the area, before everyone embarked for a short boat trip to the winding hole at Wolfhamcote. The evening was universally pronounced to have been a great success, which appeared to be born out by the group's very generous donation and their purchases from our sales stall.

### 25th anniversary gathering at The Boat House

On Sunday 6th July, over 30 members of Friends of Raymond and Narrow Boat Trust celebrated the 25th anniversary of *Raymond's* rebuild and the extensive work carried out this year on NBT's *butty Brighton*.

After two short presentations, and during a lucky moment of sunshine, we remounted the plaque on *Raymond's* hold door commemorating the rebuild by Phil Babb and Richard Clapham that we'd had re-engraved to mark the fact that, sadly, Richard had died in 2019. And it was fitting that, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary, the plaque was screwed in place by Irene Reeves who is now our only active member who was there at the very start and witnessed the rebuilding.

After lunch, a number of members boarded *Nutfield & Raymond* and *Nuneaton & Brighton* for a trip up the North Oxford Canal to Dunchurch Pools Marina. The two pairs travelled in convoy and as the rain that had threatened to spoil the day had passed over, the trip went well with the boats returning to the pub around 5.30.

### Other events this month

On Thursday this week (17th) *Nutfield & Raymond* will leave Braunston for the Cosgrove Canal Festival arriving around lunchtime on Friday. The festival itself takes place this coming weekend (19th & 20th) mainly along the canal below Cosgrove Lock.

Then, on Thursday 24th July, the boats will move on to Leighton Buzzard for the Linslade Canal Festival on Saturday 26th, which takes place on the canal at Tiddenfoot Waterside Park. The boats will begin their return journey on Sunday 27th but, because of restricted lock-opening times due to water shortages, we don't expect them back at Braunston before midday on Tuesday 29th.

By the way, some of you will have received my urgent appeal last week for help at the Cosgrove and Linslade festivals, and I'm pleased to report that we have received a number of offers of help for which we are extremely grateful.

### Future events

On the weekend of 16th & 17th August we will be at the Brownhills Canal Festival with our gazebo. We decided it was impractical to try to take the boats and this has proved to be a good decision because the locks on the Tame Valley and Rushall Canals are now closed until further notice owing to lack of water.

Other events will be as shown in our events schedule published last month. We have booked a pitch at the Banbury Canal Festival on 4th & 5th October but, as last year, we won't be able to take *Nutfield & Raymond* because, whether or not the sections of the Oxford Canal currently closed have reopened by then, until the problems at Napton Locks are resolved, the canal remains impassable to *Nutfield*.

Meanwhile, I will endeavour to issue the full edition of *FoR News*, complete with pictures, as soon as possible.

With kind regards

Nick

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