

The Friends of Raymond Events & Volunteering Report to AGM 8th February 2026

Events in 2025

Last year was a slightly unusual one in that the lock restrictions, which finally became lock closures, due to water shortage prevented us taking the boats anywhere, from August to the end of the season. Nevertheless, we managed to attend every event in are schedule, even if we had to go to some of them by road not water.

Events attended to which we took the boats:

Batchworth Boat Rall	Saturday/Sunday 17th/18th May
Harborough '75 at Foxton	Saturday/Sunday 7th/8th June
Braunston Historic Boat Rally	Saturday/Sunday 28th/29th June
Barby History Group talk and boat trip	Thursday 3rd July
FoR/NBT gathering at Braunston	Sunday 6th July
Cosgrove Canal Festival	Saturday/Sunday 19th/20th July
Linslade Canal Festival	Saturday 26th July

Events attended to which we didn't take the boats:

Northants Heritage Fair	Sunday 27th April
Brownhills Canal Festival	Saturday/Sunday 16th/17th August
Saltisford Canal Trust	Saturday 13th September
Braunston Scarecrow trail	Saturday/Sunday 13th/15th September
Huddlesford Historic Gathering	Saturday/Sunday 20th/21st September
Banbury Canal festival	Saturday/Sunday 4th/5th October

We attended or took part in 13 events in the year, in addition to which Norman, Kath, and Brian ran the stall at a number of smaller, mostly non-waterway related events.

We also held two work parties. and took the boats to Christine Thompson's birthday party at The Boat House in Braunston on Saturday 15th November where we gave two short boat trips to her guests.

A list of events provisionally planned for 2026 was published in the February 2026 issue of *FoR News*, and a more detailed Events & Volunteering Schedule for this year will be issued soon after this AGM.

Volunteering in 2025

We had another excellent show of volunteers in 2025, with no less than 30 members giving us their time. They were, in alphabetical order:

Kevin Alder, Mike Bowley, Jeremy Cooper, Peter Copeland, Dick Dampier, Diana Golder, Roger Golder, James Griffin, Neil Hankin, Will Hewitt, Michele l'Anson, Mike l'Anson, Chris M Jones, Chris R Jones, Nick Lake, Tracey Little, Paul Marvin, Steve Morgan, Frankie Morini, John Onions, Jim Reed, Irene Reeves, Nick Scarcliffe, Brian Seymour, Steve Smith, Peter Thompsett, Norman Townsend, Paul Weal, Kath Wheeler, and Colin Wilks.

As always, we are extremely grateful to everyone who helped last year, and very pleased to once again to see some new faces. As stated above, a more detailed Events & Volunteering Schedule for this year will be issued shortly and we urge everyone to look at it and see if there is an opportunity for them to help in some way because, if we can repeat, or even beat last year's turnout of 30 members, 2026 should be a good one.

Volunteering at events – can you help?

This appeal appeared in the February 2026 issue of *FoR News*.

There was a time, not so many years ago, when we could count on six or more people at most events to take turns on the stall, chat to the public, and give visitors "show-rounds" in *Raymond's* cabin. But in the years since lockdown, we have lost a number of our former regulars and, as often as not, we have found ourselves down to three, or even two. And 9-to-5 without a break, especially over two days, is a long shift when you're volunteering.

What we urgently need are more members willing to come and help at events!

Events invariably take place at weekends, it's not hard work, you won't get your hands dirty, you can do the hours that suit you (it's voluntary after all) but the more people we have at an event, the fewer hours each person needs to put in.

Spending time talking to people about what we do and helping to raise money for the charity can be an enjoyable and rewarding experience for anyone who would like to help Friends of Raymond in a practical way that doesn't involve the harder work of boating or maintenance. So, if getting involved with events might appeal to you do, please, consider giving it a try because we really do need some extra help in this area. For more information, please get in touch with me, Nick Lake, by email (nickjlake@outlook.com) or by phone (07712 005444).

Nick Lake
Events Organiser &
Volunteers Coordinator
5th February 2026