

The Friends of Raymond News, Publicity & Social Media Report to AGM 8th February 2026

News

The recently-published February 2026 issue of *FoR News*, featuring a review of the year, should ideally have come out before the end of 2025. Nevertheless, my aim continues to be to publish a “review of the year” edition around the year end, another issue of *FoR News* sometime in the middle of the year, hopefully containing a few items of more general or historical interest, and to send out newsletter emails monthly between March and October, although I confess these did rather drop off in the second half of last year owing to pressure of other FoR commitments and activities.

Publicity

Our patron, Tom Coghlan, continues to publicise the activities of *Nutfield & Raymond* and our work on the boats in articles he writes from time to time for publication in the waterways press, and for which we are most grateful.

We have also been discussing the production of a short book on the histories of *Nutfield*, *Raymond*, and The Friends of Raymond which we would ideally like to get out in time to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the charity which falls on 1st September this year.

Website

Our Webmaster, Jeremy Cooper, has let us know that he would like to stand down, which is fair enough after a good many years as Friends of Raymond’s backroom boy and unsung hero. After a spell away from it, Jeremy returned in 2020 and carried out a complete redesign, producing the website we have today. We will be very sad to see Jeremy go but we owe him an enormous debt of gratitude for giving Friends of Raymond a bright, colourful, and impressive online presence which has undoubtedly raised the profile of the charity and everything we do.

We put out an appeal to the membership in the recent *FoR News* for someone with website experience to take over from Jeremy and, to our surprise, we received an almost-immediate offer of help. The member concerned is very well qualified to pick up where Jeremy leaves off and, on the reasonable assumption we receive no further offers, Jeremy will begin the handover in the next few weeks.

Social Media

We must offer our thanks to Christine Thompson who has got involved with our Facebook group “Narrowboats Raymond and Nutfield (Friends of Raymond)” in the last year. Christine has been actively encouraging the posting of new pictures, news, and stories in the group and this, together with the tighter administrative control that she and her fellow administrator, Nick Scarcliffe have put in place, has greatly improved the quality and relevance of the content.

Christine would like to urge all FoR members to visit our Facebook group and to post anything – pictures, comments, stories, information etc – that might be of interest to other members. You can access our Facebook group via the website. Just go to the home page and click the blue “Facebook” button. However, what you can see is fairly limited unless you have a Facebook account. But speaking as someone who has successfully avoided Facebook until this year, it’s very easy to set up an account, and to keep it completely private if that’s how you would prefer it.

Nick Lake
Chairman & FoR News Editor
5th February 2026