

# Sun Rising News

The twice yearly newsletter of  
Sun Rising Natural Burial Ground and Nature Reserve

## Autumn/Winter 2015



**Green Flag** We are proud to announce that in 2015 Sun Rising was awarded a prestigious Green Flag. Launched in 1996, the scheme sets the national standard of excellence, recognising and rewarding the best parks and green spaces in the country. The rigorous judging process measures each site against a list of criteria that includes environmental sustainability, heritage conservation, cleanliness, safety, and quality of management. We are the only natural burial ground north of London to have been awarded one, and only the second in the country.



**Honey** After a cold May in 2015, we took no spring honey from our bees, waiting instead until the summer when we were able to harvest enough for over 200 jars. For honey connoisseurs, there is a taste difference worth exploring, this honey having a more complex mix of floral hues. Honey is still £5 a 340g jar, on sale at all our events – or call us if you're visiting and would like to buy some.

### The Friends of Sun Rising

Our companion charity is going from strength to strength, now with its own new colour leaflet. We are always looking to expand our pool of resources, though. If you have some knowledge of charity law, fundraising or financial investment, or would like to help in some other way, we would be keen to hear from you.

All are welcome to The Friends' AGM – if you aren't a Friend already, you can pay the annual £10 subscription on the door. The date is Sunday 27 September 2015, 2-5 pm. Do let us know if you are coming, so we can send more details and cater for you on the day.

### Bulbs, Seeds and Planting on Graves

Our Bulb Planting day this year will take place on Sunday 25 October, 11 am – 1 pm. We'll have a selection of bulbs available, but let us know if you would like some so we have enough. There will also be Sun Rising wildflower seed mix packs (£2.50) available, for woodland and meadow graves.

Do remember that only native bulbs are permitted, anything else being removed. If you'd like to see our **Acceptable Plants** list, let me know, or have a look on our website (navigate to Visiting Sun Rising / Planting on Graves).



**Armistice Day** At 10.45 for 11 am on Wednesday 11 November there will be a quiet gathering at our war memorial to remember all those affected by conflict, past and present. All are welcome to this gentle, non-denominational event.

**Christmas Cards** Last year we ran out of our winter cards by early December. By popular demand, we will be producing some more winter scenes taken at Sun Rising, this time with no wording inside. However, if you'd like to buy a number to use as Christmas Cards, please place your order by mid November.

**Tree Planting** will be end of November to mid December as usual. Families due to plant trees will be contacted in the autumn. If you're not on our list but would like to buy a tree in memory of a loved one, do let us know.

**Carols at Sun Rising** will be on Sunday 13 December 2015, between 11 am and 1 pm. As a fundraiser for The Friends of Sun Rising, there will be mulled wine and mince pies, accompanied by carols. Sun Rising cards and honey will be available too: the perfect gift!

If you would like one of our beautiful eco-friendly winter **wreaths**, for laying at Sun Rising or taking elsewhere, let us know. You need to order to be sure of getting one. The cost is £15, profits to The Friends. These will be available on Sunday 13 December, or at other times by arrangement.

**Christmas Day** If the weather allows, we shall be at Sun Rising during the morning of Friday 25 December, with warm tea and mince pies for anyone visiting a loved one.

**A Special Year** 2016 is our tenth anniversary year. To celebrate, on Saturday afternoon, 18 June, we have a trio of professional musicians playing mellow **jazz in the roundhouse**. This will be a fundraiser for The Friends, with delicious cream teas, so please do put it in your diary now!

**Flora and Fauna at Sun Rising** In 2015 we had some wonderful nature watch days and surveys. A significant gene pool of a beautiful variant of the common blue butterfly was found, *Polyommatus icarus var. caerulea*. Some 249 different species of moth were recorded, including a rare double dart moth. Four kinds of damselflies were seen, and 3 species of dragonfly were laying eggs in the pond. Thank you to all our nature watchers! If you'd like to join us, do let us know and we can put you on the list.

**Tussock Margin** One important venture for this coming year is the creation of a tussock margin – an area of dense native grasses and perennial wildflowers that will be a perfect habitat for small mammals,

moths and other insects. This will help the bees, providing pollen closer to the hives, and also support owls and other birds who rely on such sources of food. The margin will stretch along the western boundary, from the pond up to the *Reflect* bench in the high corner. In the autumn, we shall be removing the grass, ploughing and sowing with a special seed mix. The bees will be removed over the winter while the key work is going on. It may take a year or two to come into its own, but we're excited about the prospect.

**Nesting Boxes** Some new possibilities have arisen for families to **sponsor** nesting boxes at Sun Rising. These include a new barn owl box, a little owl box, a small tit box and bat boxes. Let us know if you are interested in becoming a sponsor.

**The Butterfly Bank** This bank of soil along the top car park was seeded with special plants, but the cold windy spring meant nothing came through. This year we shall be putting in some plug plants, and more seed, and watching with interest ... Let us know what you see!

**Busy Times** If you are aiming to visit Sun Rising on a particular day, do call to make sure that a large funeral or memorial service is not taking place. We know how frustrating it can be to arrive to find the car park full when you are hoping for moments of complete peace and reflection.

**Mailing List** If you'd like to receive this newsletter and other updates but are not on our mailing list, do get in touch. To save paper, we prefer to send it out by email, but will do so by post for those who are not online. You're always free to print it if you'd like to.



## Nature Reserve Burial Grounds

tel : 01295 688488 / 0779 229 4414 email : office@nrbgounds.co.uk sunrisingburialground.co.uk