

Sun Rising News

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

Spring/Summer 2020



Sun Rising will remain open, for burials and visitors, during this Coronavirus period. Fresh air and a peaceful environment are so important for general wellbeing. Call if you have any concerns or queries.

The Nature Reserve

Tree Sparrow Project Between 1970 and 2008, the Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) declined in numbers by 93% in the UK. One of the last viable colonies in Warwickshire is at Sun Rising. Working with the RSPB and Banbury Ornithological Society, in February we put up further nestboxes and feeders especially for them.

Many of you have generously donated to our fund to see if we can help strengthen our little group enough for them to spread locally. If you'd like to help out in some way, do get in touch.

Butterfly Transects As the nature reserve develops, the number of butterflies also grows. In order to monitor the growth, we have special paths that are walked, 'transects', along which butterflies are counted. If you'd like to know more or

join the team of transect walkers, please get in touch.

Dragonflies and the Wild Pond

Usually each year we remove a large amount of the vegetation in our wildlife pond: if we didn't, the pond would soon be a marshy reedbed! With so much rain,



though, last autumn we weren't able to clear it. This summer we're keen to monitor any differences, particularly in terms of dragonflies. Let us know if you'd like to help with surveying.

Please Stick to the Paths You'll see we now have neat new signs onsite reminding visitors not to walk through the long grasses and wildflowers during the summer months. Do please stick to the mown paths and tracks at all times.

Please respect that meadow graves are not accessible during the summer.

Floral tributes must be left on the path edge or by memorial posts. Thank you!

Events

These are the events we're hoping to run, if the virus allows. Put them in your diary, but get in touch for updates .

Nature Survey Days Saturday 18 April, Sunday 14 June and Saturday 1 August, 10 am – 4 pm. Come and help record the flora (and occasional fauna) in the nature reserve. Experts and beginners welcome.

Open Day Saturday 30 May, 11 am – 4 pm. Our annual open day is a chance to meet staff and trustees. Take a tour around the site and talk about your own needs and wishes. Tell your friends!

Jazz in the Roundhouse Saturday 4 July, 2 – 5 pm. We're thrilled to announce *Alexandra's Washboard Trio* will be here playing hot jazz and traditional swing on a lazy summer's afternoon. This is a Friends of Sun Rising fundraiser, so do come along with friends and family. There'll be our wonderful refreshments stall, Sun Rising

honey and other products on sale, and of course our raffle and tombola.

Let us know if you'd like to be involved in any way, contributing cakes, helping with refreshments or parking.

Nature Walks Saturday 18 July, 11 am and 3 pm. Our guided walks are for those who'd like to learn about the nature reserve – young woodland, grasses, wildflowers, hedgerows, butterflies, bees, birds and more. Bring a camera or binoculars. The walks are around 2 hours but at a very gentle pace.

Moth Night Saturday 8 August, 8 pm until very late. Naturalist Peter Cranswick from Slimbridge Wetlands and Wildfowl Trust will give a talk in Tysoe village hall, then lead a night of trapping and identifying moths. Let us know if you'd like to come along so we can send more information. Entry: £4 to cover costs.

The Friends of Sun Rising

The Friends' AGM this year will be on Saturday 5 September, 2 – 5 pm, in Tysoe village hall. This is a warm and friendly event, where trustees present an update on fundraising and events, as well as plans and developments at Sun Rising.

As our 'after tea' nature talk this year we're very pleased to have a good soul from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust presenting a talk on **Gardening for Wildlife and Your Plate**.

So, Where Are We Going Exactly?

This beautiful children's story book has now been published! Aimed at 6-10 year olds, it seeks to help address questions and anxieties about death. It's an honest, sensitive and thoughtful book with rich illustrations that reflect Sun Rising in summertime. £6.99 plus P&P. To buy a copy, contact sowherebook@gmail.com.



If you can spread the word in local groups or social media, write a review, or have other ideas for broadening distribution, please let us know. Full details at <https://sunrising.co.uk/childrens-book/>.

Quiz and Tapas Night In March we raised over £900 for The Friends at our Quiz event! It was such an enjoyable evening that many immediately asked when the next one would be – so we've decided to do another in March 2021.

Sun Rising Honey Although we don't currently have beehives onsite, we do still have honey to sell. It will be available at events, but if you are visiting and would like some, let us know so we can be sure to have some in the cabin.

Other News

Web and Email Address We now have the simpler web address: <https://sunrising.co.uk>. Email is simpler too - office@sunrising.co.uk. The old [sunrisingburialground](https://sunrisingburialground.co.uk) will continue to work as well.

Joining the Team This spring a few new faces will be joining us: just 3 – 4 days a month, Mark will be working on site and Libby will be helping wherever she's needed.

Notes

Busy Times If you would rather visit Sun Rising on a quiet day, call and we can let you know if there's a funeral or something else going on. Alternatively, check the newsflash on the website home page: we'll do our best to flag up when the car park is likely to be full.

Mailing List If you'd like to receive this newsletter and other updates but are not on our mailing list, please get in touch. You are always welcome to print it or email it out to family and friends.