

# Sun Rising News

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

## Autumn/Winter 2020-2021



### The Nature Reserve

**Wildflower Meadow** The 1.5 acres known as Michael's Meadow was sown in October 2017, and has faced considerable challenges since. Drought and heat have scorched it, too much rain has washed seed away. Nonetheless it is progressing: this year's wonderful display of oxeye daisies drew visitors from far afield. As they went to seed, other species came into flower, including yarrows, wild basil, field scabious and agrimony. It will take longer for it to find its balance.

When the meadows were cut in early September, hay from the wildflower areas was collected and spread over the next section of grassland to be developed as wildflower meadow, so the seed could fall into the grass. We'll repeat this process for some years, creating the new meadow from our own seed instead of buying it in from elsewhere.



### Visitors

#### Christmas Wreaths and Tributes

Please remember: all wreaths and other floral tributes left on graves must be 100% natural. Anything with wire, plastic, oasis, glitter, paint, dyed flowers, or anything else that isn't completely biodegradable will be removed immediately. If you'd like a Christmas wreath to remain on a grave or by a memorial post over the festive period, make sure it's natural! Check online for our **Approved Florists** list or we can send you a copy.

**Respect** When visiting Sun Rising, we ask that you respect other visitors. As well as social distancing, please keep voices down, control noisy children and give people space. Thank you.

**Busy Times** As Sun Rising grows, it becomes more likely that you may arrive to visit a grave and find a funeral taking place. Do call beforehand if you want to be sure of a quiet day.

### Events

**Planting Weekend** If restrictions allow, this event will take place on

Saturday 17 – Sunday 18 October. It will only be open to those who have booked a slot in advance, ordering bulbs, plants and seeds through us. If you'd like to come, please get in touch.

**Armistice Day** As our 11 November gathering at the Cairn is an outdoor affair, where social distancing can be maintained, we hope this will go ahead. Please be with us by 10.45 for 11 am. It is a non-religious event to remember those who have died in conflict, near and far, recently and in times long past.

**Tree Planting** We do hope to be able to go ahead with planting memorial trees this winter. There will be precautions in place to keep you safe, with a maximum allowed to attend. If you are expecting to plant a tree this winter, you'll hear from us by mid October with the planting schedule

**Christmas** Sadly we will not be holding our usual Mulled Wine and Mince Pies event this year. However, we hope to have coffee and mince pies for those who visit on Christmas morning. If you'd like to donate, let us know.

**2021** In one form or another, we hope to be able to hold some events during the year, including our Open Day and Roll of Remembrance.

**Sun Rising Care** We are aware that this winter may well be very hard for those grieving, especially if also isolated and shielding. Whilst we are not an established emotional support service, we may be able to provide signposting to other services for anyone who may want to reach out at this time.

## The Friends of Sun Rising

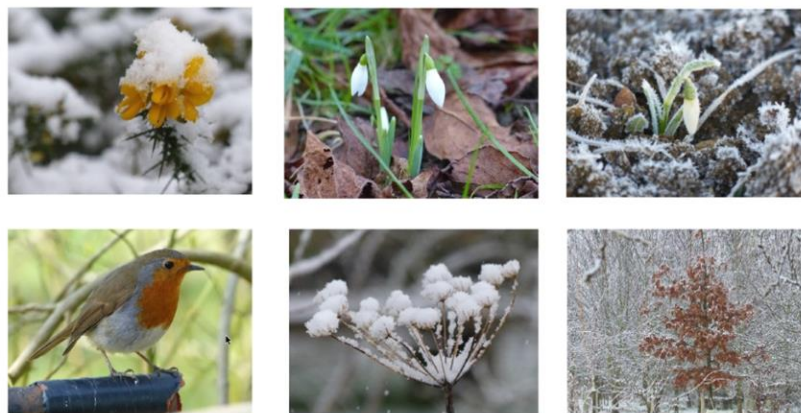
**The Friends' AGM** Held on 5 September 2020, 47 managed to navigate the Zoom technology and attend on the day. The presentation was recorded, so if you didn't manage to log in for one reason or another, it is now available as an easy-to-access video. Our printed end of year report is also available. For both, you must be a currently subscribing member of The Friends.

**Leaving a Legacy** Whether you have a loved one laid to rest at Sun Rising, intend to be buried here yourself, or are purely a supporter of the nature reserve, we would like to encourage you to consider leaving a gift to The Friends of Sun Rising in your Will. Our new Legacies leaflet will give you all the information you need. Please let us

know if you'd like us to send you a copy, either printed or digitally.

**Honey, Jam and Other Gifts** The pandemic means it's been a slow year for selling our various products. Honey from Sun Rising bees, and jams made from Sun Rising fruit, can't be sent by post, but other items can: our hare key rings, lapel pins and little purses, our organic cotton tea towel and greetings cards. Just let us know what you'd like. We can pop it in the post or meet you at the cabin. All are perfect gifts!

Sun Rising Winter / Christmas Cards 2020



**Christmas Cards** With such a mild wet winter last year, it was a challenge to get frosty photographs for this year's cards! Use as Christmas cards or simply winter notelets. Each pack has one each of the 6 photos taken at Sun Rising - £9 a pack or £7.50 per pack for two or more. Please get in touch for P&P and order information.

## So, Where Are We Going Exactly?

Our beautiful children's book is selling steadily, despite the lack of events or bookshops open. The reviews are wonderfully positive ... *'does a dual job of comforting children and preparing them for difficult emotions'* ... *'will be wonderful for many people at a difficult time, but it's lovely at any time'* ... *'and beautifully illustrated too!'* Get in touch for more information or to order copies of the book, or check the dedicated webpage at <https://sunrising.co.uk/childrens-book/>.

## News

**The Top Car Park** With nearly 1200 people now laid to rest at Sun Rising, new burial areas are gradually moving to more central locations of the site. The top car park is becoming more used as a result. Over the next few years, we expect to be using the top car park for funerals, leaving the current car park free for visitors.

As a first step in this process, we have now extended the top car park, adding space for a further 20 cars (or 40 in dry weather). New fencing and gates will be the next step. We'll keep you informed.

## Notes

**Mailing List** If you'd like to receive this newsletter and other updates but are not on our mailing list, please get in touch.