

# Sun Rising News

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

## Autumn/Winter 2021-2022



### The Nature Reserve

**Farmland Birds** For over a decade we've been doing our best to care for the small but significant Tree Sparrow population that was resident at Sun Rising. However, growing numbers of feisty House Sparrows have now pushed these shy little birds away.

As a result, our focus has now shifted to include more Red Listed (endangered) farmland birds in our area: Linnets, Yellowhammers, Yellow Wagtails, Skylarks and Reed Buntings. Funds in our Tree Sparrow Project have now been reallocated to support ways in which we can help these birds.

**Planting Trees** As part of the farmland birds project, and in line with our plans for developing the nature reserve, this winter we will be planting a bank of trees and shrubs along the northern boundary. The existing hedge is owned (and cut hard each year) by the neighbouring farmer. We will

be creating a broad native hedge with some large trees, providing a thick corridor for wildlife, and nesting places for birds such as Yellowhammers and Linnets, along with Robins, Wrens and Blackbirds. We may even tempt back the Tree Sparrows.

If you would like to help plant the trees, please let us know. We'll update you when dates are in the diary.

### Events

**Planting Weekend** Saturday 16

– Sunday 17 October, 10 am until 3 pm.

You need to book a slot in advance.

Placing your order with us for bulbs, wildflower plants and seeds in advance will help ensure you get what you want! Please get in touch and we can let you have the list of what is available. This includes native daffodils, English bluebells, white campion, ragged robin, cowslips, oxeye daisies and more. We are also happy to plant for you if you aren't able to attend or can't do the planting yourself.

To maintain the integrity of the nature reserve, we remove garden varieties of daffodils, tulips, Spanish bluebells and other

non-native plants. Please remember that you need permission if you want to plant or sow anything on a grave: we can let you know if it's acceptable.

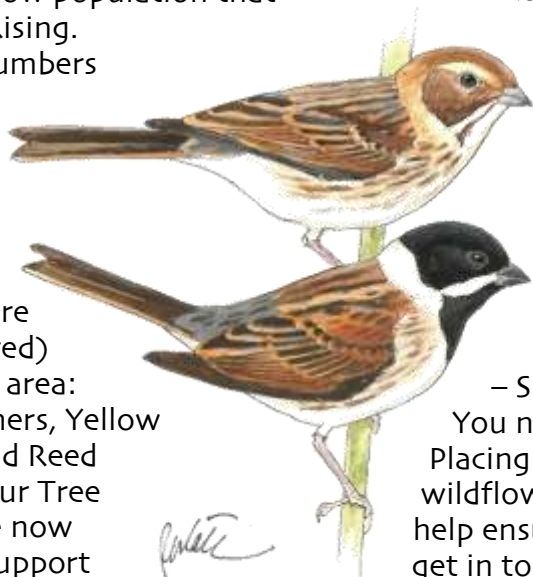
**Armistice Day** On Thursday 11 November we will hold our gathering at the Cairn. Please be with us by 10.45 for 11 am. This is a non-religious event to remember those who have died in conflicts, near and far.

**Memorial Trees Planting** We trust the planting will go ahead this winter, albeit with precautions as COVID lingers. If you are expecting to plant a tree this year, you'll hear from us by mid-October, inviting you to come along, and letting you know any necessary conditions.

**Christmas** As usual, we will be open on Christmas Day for families to visit graves.

### The Friends of Sun Rising

**The Friends' AGM** On Saturday 11 September we held the AGM for subscribing member of The Friends. After our round-up of news about Sun Rising and The Friends, the AGM was followed by a talk given by



Emma on the creation and management of 'The Wildflower Meadows of Sun Rising'.

Because of the pandemic, numbers were limited, but we were able to record the event and members will have access to the recording online.

**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.

**Perennial Calendar, Honey, Jam and Other Sun Rising Gifts** Without our usual summer events, it has been another slow year for selling our various products in aid of The Friends. Honey from Sun Rising bees, and jams made from Sun Rising fruit, can't be sent by post, but other items can: our perennial calendar of beautiful Sun Rising photographs, 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!

## Visitors

**Busy Times** To avoid coming to visit a grave and finding a funeral taking place, do call us. Or check the 'Busy Times' diary on our *Visiting Sun Rising* page online.

**Christmas Wreaths and Tributes** At Sun Rising we know it can feel important to share the festive period with a loved one laid to rest. Please remember, however, that we only allow 100% natural, 100% biodegradable wreaths and tributes: these will remain in place until 6 January. Anything made with wire, plastic, oasis, glitter, paint, or other non-biodegradable materials will be removed and disposed of immediately. Check our **Approved Florists** list online or ask us to send you a copy.

## Sun Rising Winter / Christmas Cards 2021



**Dog Permits** We understand how comforting it can be to bring a dog to visit a grave. However, to protect the nature reserve and keep the burial ground tidy, dogs may not be walked at Sun Rising.

Now, because of dog mess found onsite, in August 2021 all previously issued Dog Passes were revoked. New Dog Permits have been issued for those who have asked.

These allow a well-behaved dog to be walked, on a lead, from the car park to the grave specified on the Permit, and nowhere else. With a photograph on the Permit, they clearly identify the permitted dog. Permits must be carried by those bringing a dog to Sun Rising. If you ever feel remotely concerned about a dog onsite, please feel free to **ask the owner to show you their permit**, and/or let us know if you encounter any problems.

## News

**New Staff** We now have two new people working with us. Libby helps Emma in the office and out at Sun Rising, doing whatever is needed, from plaque design to weeding the butterfly bank. You might see her onsite or reach her if you phone us! Lucia will be less visible: more office-based, she will be looking after IT and accounts. It's great to have them both on the team.

**The Longhouse** By March 2022, we'll be able to give you an update on our planned new building and changes at the top car park. Watch this space!

## 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.