

Sun Rising News

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

Spring/Summer 2022



Changes Ahead

For a few years now we have been talking about plans for the north-eastern corner of the site, and we are now happy to update you on progress. We were given planning permission at the start of this year, so the main elements of the development will be getting under way this summer.

The **Longhouse** will be an oak-framed building, with glass doors and windows looking west, out over that beautiful broad horizon. Larger than the Roundhouse, this will be available for funerals, memorial services and other Sun Rising events. Of course, as Sun Rising is off-grid, it will have no electricity or water; it will be a beautiful, simple, sheltered space, with amazing views, entirely in keeping with the feel of the natural burial ground and nature reserve. We hope that the building process will take place between May and July.

With the focus of activity moving towards this northern end of the site, a new **cabin** will be built. Similar to the cabin already on site, it will be a place where we can meet families to talk about options and arrange funerals.

But before the Longhouse or new cabin are under way, in mid-April we'll begin

building the new **toilets**. These will not be gendered, but instead divided into a **STAND UP** urinals area and a **SIT DOWN** composting toilet.

The existing toilet is inside the old cabin, so only available to visitors when there are staff onsite. We aim to make these new facilities open even when there are no staff around: the plan is that all subscribing Friends of Sun Rising will have the combination to the lock and can use it whenever they visit.

There are, of course, other associated elements, including new **drainage**. The top **entrance** will be improved. There will be a section of tarmac from the lane down into the car park. New **gates and fencing** will mean we can leave the gate unlocked throughout the day, allowing easy access for visitors. Once the work has been completed, we'll lay a final topping of stone over the car park. There will also be **new stone paths** from the Longhouse to allow funeral parties and visitors an easy walk, even in wet weather.

Finally, the bunds of earth around the car park and Longhouse will be weeded, sown with wildflowers and planted with shrubs – some this winter, and some over the next few years.

In time, this northern entrance will become **the main entrance** to Sun Rising. The southern entrance, which has always been the main entrance, will remain open to visitors. It will be needed for very large funerals and events, but most of the time it will be available for visitors. Indeed, if you arrive to visit a grave or to walk in the nature reserve, and a funeral is in progress, you will be far more likely to have space to park without any problem, and without disturbing the funeral taking place.

Needless to say, after all the building work is finished, the whole area will need some time to recover. Please do bear with us, throughout the development process and as it gently settles and matures.

Let us know if you have any queries or concerns at any time.



Visiting Sun Rising

Please Stick to the Paths Do please keep to the mown paths and tracks through the summer. So as not to trample grasses and wildflowers, meadow graves are not accessible from April to September. Floral tributes *must* be left on the path edge or by memorial posts. Thank you!

Busy Times To be sure that an event is not taking place when you visit, check our BUSY TIMES calendar on the *Visiting Sun Rising* webpage (sunrising.co.uk/visiting-sun-rising) – or don't hesitate to call.

Events

Open Day Sat 21 May, 10 am – 1 pm
With building under way, this year's open day will be very low key. Staff will be onsite for those who would like to talk through ideas or take a tour around the grounds. It's also a chance to look at our new development and ask questions. Do let friends and family know about the day.

Nature Walks Sat 18 June Our guided nature walks are an opportunity to take a walk around the natural burial ground and nature reserve, exploring the various different habitats, identifying the trees, wildflowers, butterflies and more. There will be three walks: 10 am, 12 noon and 3 pm. You do need to book in advance, so let us know early to be sure of a space.

Jazz in the Roundhouse Sat 2 July, 2 – 5 pm Alexandra's Washboard Trio are booked to play a couple of sets of hot jazz and swing, perfect for a lazy summer's afternoon. There's no fee to attend, but we'll be raising funds for The Friends of Sun Rising with our refreshments stall, raffle, tombola, and Friends' products too.

Moth Night Sat 6 August, 8 pm until very late. Naturalist Peter Cranswick from Slimbridge Wetlands and Wildfowl Trust is booked to give a short talk, 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 be booked in advance.

The Friends of Sun Rising



Sun Rising Natural Burial Ground and Nature Reserve

Summer Tea Towel After the success of our autumn design, we now have the summer tea towel, with Philip Bannister's beautiful painting. These are organic cotton, £12 each (plus £3 P&P).

The AGM Sat 3 September, 2 – 5 pm
Put the date in your diary! Details will be sent to subscribing Friends in August.

The Nature Reserve

The Northern Boundary In late 2021, a wonderful band of volunteers helped plant 265 saplings along the northern boundary. This will become a loose, broad hedge with occasional trees, increasing the hedgerow habitat for birds such as yellowhammers, bullfinches and tree sparrows. It'll also be valuable to moths, butterflies and other invertebrates. Planting a hedge needs patience: it'll be 5 years before we get an idea of how it might look in its prime!

The Beetle Castle There are a number of woodpiles around the nature reserve, but the 'Beetle Castle' near the pond is the only one to include a stump. Logs are dug upright into the soil, creating a variety of habitats. In the UK alone, some 650 species of beetle need deadwood for their larvae, which both hide in it and feed on it.

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. Similarly, if you no longer wish to receive it, by post or email, let us know. You are always welcome to print it or email it out to family and friends.