

Sun Rising News

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

Autumn/Winter 2023-2024



The Nature Reserve

Explorer Leaflet This is a new leaflet that suggests a route that visitors might like to walk around Sun Rising to take in various points of interest. They can be found in our leaflet dispensers on the welcome maps in both the north and south car parks. Feel free to pick one up when you're next at Sun Rising, or download it from the website - we do hope you enjoy using it.

Mowing in 2023 Some may have noticed that when mowing the meadows this past year, we left a patchwork of islands and corridors of long vegetation. These are to allow our wildlife to shelter from weather and hide from predators, or keep moving around the site without having to cope with large open spaces. Some of these areas will be mown short in March before the new cycle of growth begins again.

Spreading the Green Hay When creating our first two acres of wildflower meadow, an early step was to plough the land and sow seed. With our final area, we are using a much gentler touch: green hay. After cutting the established meadows, we



moved the hay to areas where we'd like to increase the biodiversity, spreading it using hay forks, hoping the flower seed spills out and germinates. Over the coming year or so, we'll see how the gentle touch works. In the meantime, we are very grateful to all our volunteers who did the hard work of shifting the hay – thank you!

Volunteer Mailing List This is a list for those who would like to get more involved in the care and development of the nature reserve and natural burial ground. Emails describe an upcoming task, giving dates and times, so you can let us know if you'd like to

come along. There are gardening-type jobs like squishing caterpillars, pruning roses or weeding, nature reserve tasks like raking hay and mulching trees, and gentler options like baking cakes and cleaning plaques. Let us know if you'd like to be on the list.

News

Development Creating Sun Rising is not just about wildlife. Over the years, we have put in all the necessary infrastructure: tracks and paths, drainage, meeting cabins and toilets, as well as the Roundhouse and Longhouse for services and events. The north entrance was completed in September and will now serve as the main car park for funerals. On quiet days the gate will also be open for visitors. The south entrance will remain open for visitors and the occasional funeral.

Ensuring the funding has been in place, and each part fits gently into the landscape, has been a major challenge, but we hope you feel as pleased with it as we do.

There are a few more big things to do: a final long line of drainage and an extension to the pond. We hope to get these underway during the next few years.

Events

Planting Weekend Sat 14 – Sun 15 Oct, 10 am - 3 pm. This event is specifically for families who would like to plant bulbs or wildflowers on graves. We will have thousands of native bulbs and hundreds of wildflower perennials in pot, with plenty of seedpacks especially mixed for Sun Rising.

Families do need to order in advance. This means it isn't a scramble on the day! Let us know if you'd like to see the list of what will be available.

We don't recommend planting on a grave that is less than a year old, as the earth really does need a winter to settle.

Armistice Day Sat 11 Nov, 10.45 am. This is our usual non-religious gathering at the cairn where we pause from the noise and haste of daily life to remember those who have been affected by conflicts, near and far, old and new. As a Saturday this year, we hope to see a few faces who don't usually make it. Please be with us in time for a 10.50 am start.

Memorial Trees Planting

This year we are planting on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, between 1 Dec and 16 Dec. Those who are expecting to plant a tree this year will be contacted by mid October.

Christmas in the Longhouse Sun 17 Dec, 11 am – 3 pm. With the Longhouse giving us shelter, we have a lovely Christmas event for those with a loved one at Sun Rising. Along with mulled wine, mince pies and festive music, this year we will have a **Memory Tree** in the Longhouse. Everyone is welcome to come along and write a message, poem or prayer for their loved one: come and adorn our tree with memories!

There will also be our Friends of Sun Rising stall with plenty of Christmas present ideas, such as jams and chutneys made with Sun Rising fruits.

Christmas and New Year We are open as usual, between 8 am and 5 pm, every day over the festive period.

Sun Rising Winter / Christmas Cards 2023



The Friends of Sun Rising

The Friends' AGM and Talk Saturday 30 September, 2 – 5 pm. Our AGM each autumn presents an update both on our charity and the nature reserve. You do need to be a subscribing member of The Friends to attend, but it's just £10 per year. Get in touch if you'd like to join.

This year, after tea and cake, we are very pleased to have Simon Durk from the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, giving a talk on 'Gardening for Wildlife and your Plate'.

Christmas Cards These come in a pack of all six designs for £9, or £7.50 per pack if you buy two or more packs. They are blank so can also be used as notelets. We can send them out by post: let us know, and we'll send you an idea of P&P.

Visitors

Christmas Wreaths and Tributes A quick reminder that everything left on a grave must comply with our Regulations. Wreaths remain on graves until 6 January. If anything does not comply, it is removed immediately.

Each year we want to reduce the amount of **pure waste** that has to be sent to landfill: such as wreaths made with wire, glues, dyes and sparkles. Please **tell family and friends**! Let's take care of the planet, reduce rubbish, keep it natural!