

Sun Rising News

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

Spring/Summer 2023



Changes and Updates

Introducing Steve From the beginning of April, Steve Lockett will be working with us full time. Since January, Steve has helped us out here and there, gently tying up his old job before starting to focus on Sun Rising. Some of you may have met him at volunteer days or when visiting Sun Rising.

As our new Nature Reserve and Grounds Care Person, Steve will be onsite more often than not. We're very excited to have him on board: collectively it means we'll have much more time, energy and inspiration to pour into the care and development of the nature reserve.

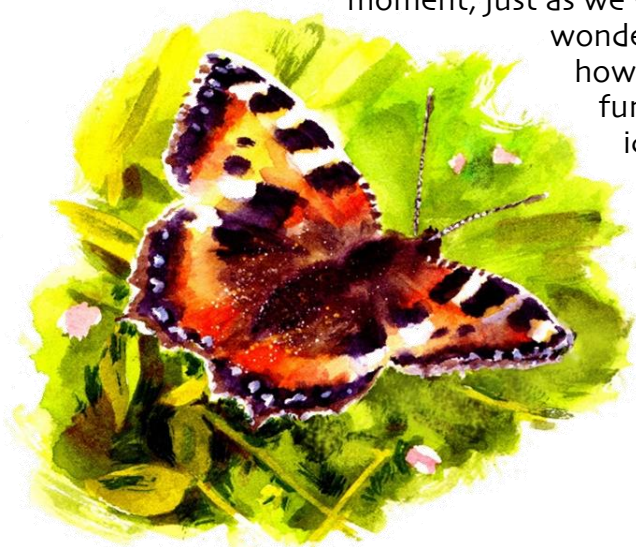
Through the summer, you may see him mowing the paths and verges; if you do, feel free to say hello!

Update on the North Entrance While the Longhouse itself was finally finished in December 2022, completing the entrance has been beset with frustrating delays. The key problem has been a series of unexpected bureaucratic hoops to be jumped through in order to lay the required section of tarmac to the lane. This must be

in before new gates can be installed. The final layer of stone in the car park has been delayed as a result. We are working hard to get the project finished as soon as possible, ideally before midsummer.

Peter's Map When Peter Manship was laid to rest here in the midst of the pandemic, his wife Carole was keen for a special memorial to be created in his name. We seldom have opportunities for such things at Sun Rising, needing to maintain the simplicity of the natural environment, but Carole's request came at a pertinent

moment, just as we were wondering how to fund an idea.



Peter's Map is a topological map, crafted in resin, which we will be installing in front of the Longhouse over the coming months. The map shows how Sun Rising sits within its environment, with landmarks such as towns and hills. We hope it will allow visitors to see and feel just where they are within the local landscape.

Many thanks to Peter's family and friends who so generously donated in his memory to fund the project.

Events

Dawn Chorus Sunday 7 May, 6 – 8 am

An opportunity to listen to late spring birdsong with Steve giving some pointers on identification. Please BOOK IN ADVANCE, so we can keep you updated. There will be coffee and buns afterwards, with donations to The Friends.

Open Day Saturday 20 May, 10 am – 3 pm

A chance to talk to us about your ideas, plans, requirements, and have a guided tour. Tell your friends!

Nature Walks Saturday 17 June As part of national Great Big Green Week, we are

holding three guided nature walks: 10 am, 12 noon and 3 pm. Come and learn more about the developing nature reserve, the wildflowers, grasses and trees, the birds, butterflies and bees. You will need to **BOOK IN ADVANCE** - this allows us to keep walking groups to a sensible size.

Roll of Remembrance Saturday 8 July, 2 – 5 pm Every two years we hold this moving event, where the names are read aloud of every person who has been laid to rest or otherwise memorialized at Sun Rising. With around 1600 names on the list, it will take a while. Being present for all the names can be a beautiful experience, but we'll keep our email mailing list updated with timings for those who can't stay for the whole afternoon.

Names are automatically added to the Roll from our Burial Register. However, if you'd like a name removed, do say.

There will be refreshments on the day, raising funds for the charity. If you'd like to help out on the day, or bring cakes for the tea stall, please let us know!

The Friends of Sun Rising AGM

Saturday 30 September, 2 – 5 pm

This year the AGM is to be held later in September. There'll be an opportunity to hear about developments with the charity and at Sun Rising. After the business of the AGM, we also hope to have a nature talk. Get the date into your diary and we'll send out more details to subscribing Friends in August.

Visiting Sun Rising

Please Stick to the Paths A reminder to visitors to keep to the mown paths and tracks throughout the summer, please. So as not to trample the long 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!

Our Busy Times Calendar When the north entrance is complete, we hope to have both car parks open each day. Until that time, it is still possible for a family to arrive hoping to visit a grave, only to find the car park full. When planning a trip to Sun Rising, feel free to give us a call so you can avoid the busy times. Or check the calendar on the *Visiting Sun Rising* page (sunrising.co.uk/visiting-sun-rising).

The Nature Reserve

Managing the Woodland Opening in 2006, the first trees were planted at Sun Rising that November, over 17 years ago. The tallest are now well over 20 feet.

While memorial trees still within their ten-year guarantee are surveyed four times a year, the older trees are assessed twice annually as we watch the development of the woodland copses. It's wonderful to witness the creation of these important new habitats, with increasing numbers of birds and insects among the trees.

The Tussock Margin In 2015, a 25' wide margin was ploughed along the western boundary, then sown with a seed mix designed for field margins. Over the years, this area has lost some of its biodiversity, larger plants such as teasels and tufted hairgrass taking hold; so last autumn we cut the whole margin, removing the arisings, to allow the area to regenerate. This summer, we'll be monitoring how it comes up. If still low in flowers, we may well harrow and resow in the autumn.

Spring Cuts As you'll know from your own gardens, climate change doesn't only mean brown summer lawns. Through these mild wet winters, the grass keeps growing. For a wildflower meadow, this means grasses can start to dominate, overwhelming the wildflowers which are dormant through the winter: by the time the wildflowers get going, the grasses are already strong. So we are experimenting with mowing the meadow once in March. There may be a negative impact on spring flowers, but it could help the summer flowers. We'll find out!

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.