Sun Rising News

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

Spring/Summer 2025

The Nature Reserve

The Swift Tower Swifts are yet another species with numbers in rapid decline. They really are extraordinary birds: throughout their lives, they eat, sleep and mate on the wing, only ever landing to nest. Falling insect populations are the main problem, but also modern houses don't provide nest sites. Hoping to do our bit, this summer we are creating a swift tower: a tall pole with nestboxes. In order to attract them, we'll include a swift caller, which cries out (in swift language), "hey, accommodation available here!" Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the project!

Wonderful Water Having put in place capacity for capturing over 20 000 litres of rainwater, nature has given us a few very wet years! Meanwhile, we're still waiting for our new drain lines to be installed. Our overflow pond near the Longhouse is working well, though, as are the ditches dug into the meadow near the pond.

Our next major project will be to extend the pond, creating an island for breeding birds. This will increase the size of the pond by about 50% and will include a larger area of 'beach': a shallow slope into the water that can be used by hungry birds and thirsty mammals. Having more water will also increase our insect numbers: food for swifts and other insectivores such as bats and swallows. We'll be looking for sponsors to help fund this substantial nature reserve project over the summer.

You may see a new 'dipping pond' along the western boundary too. This will be for supporting breeding amphibians when needed, also providing a safe pond dipping experience for youngsters.



Nature Events

Payment is by donation. Please ***book in advance***. https://sunrising.co.uk/events/

Making Insect Hotels Tuesday 15 April, 10 am - noon Come and make homes for bees, moths, flies and other insects. Leave your hotel at the nature reserve or take it home for your own garden. Suitable for children accompanied by an adult.

Spring at Sun Rising Wednesday 23 April, 2 – 4 pm A chance for a calm springtime walk. We'll be looking out for signs of new life around the grounds, flowers, grasses, trees, birds and butterflies.

Spring Birdsong Thursday 8 May, 7.30 – 9 am Walking around the grounds, we'll aim to identify each song within the dawn chorus. Come and immerse yourself.

Moth Night Saturday 17 May, 8 pm until late Led by moth expert David Brown for Butterfly Conservation, this is a chance to see the many amazing moth species at Sun Rising with moth-ers on hand to identify them all. Stay as long as you like.

Picture: Swifts by Philip Bannister

Insect Day **Wednesday 25 June, 10 am - 3 pm** A day to explore all the insects we can find at Sun Rising: bees, butterflies, beetles, dragonflies, hoverflies and more. Come for as long as you wish, beginners welcome.

Flora Survey **Wednesday 2 July, 2.30 – 5 pm** Focusing on particular areas, we'll aim to record every tree, plant and grass. Come to share your knowledge or to learn more. Beginners are welcome too: it's always fun to be challenged by new eyes.

Flora Walk **Saturday 5 July, 10 am – noon** A gentle walk around the grounds exploring the trees, plants and grasses at Sun Rising. Bring a camera or sketchpad!

Butterfly Walks **Thursday 24 July, 11 am – 12.30** A walk to discover the many beautiful butterflies of Sun Rising.

24 Hour Bioblitz **Tuesday 5 August, 7.30 am until late** We'll be aiming to record all the flora and fauna in a day: our birds first, then pondlife, flowers, butterflies, trees, insects, mammals, and finally bats, owls and moths. Come for a bit or stay all day!

Further Events

Unless it says otherwise, payment is by donation. Please ***book in advance***.
https://sunrising.co.uk/events/

Death Café **Tuesday 6 May, 6 – 8 pm** Led by BrumYODO, this is a chance to talk about death and dying in a gentle and supported environment – with tea and cake. Get in touch if you are interested.

Open Day **Saturday 31 May, 10 am – 4 pm** A chance to find out more about what we offer. For those who would like, there'll be a chance to talk through ideas or take a guided tour of the natural burial ground and the nature reserve. Tell your friends!

Roll of Remembrance **Saturday 21 June, 2 – 6 pm** There'll be over 2000 names to read aloud this year, spread over the whole afternoon, to include everyone laid to rest and remembered here. We'll share more details and a schedule of names nearer the date. All are welcome, no need to book.

Watercolour Painting **Saturday 19 July, 10 am – 4 pm** Led by local artist Audrey Sibert, this is a chance to spend a lovely calm day at Sun Rising, capturing some of its natural beauty in paint. Tickets are with tuition (£45) or with lighter guidance (£20). Beginners to experienced welcome.

Friends of Sun Rising

The Friends of Sun Rising AGM
Saturday 13 September, 2 – 5 pm Our AGMs are a chance for subscribing Friends to hear all about the work of the charity, as well as plans and developments at Sun Rising. This year the presentation will be followed by a talk from Rosemary Collier OBE on 'making space for nature'.

Art Auction and Supper **Saturday 25 October, 6 - 10 pm** This is a major fundraising event for The Friends, with some wonderful artwork, both for sale and by auction. The evening will also include a delicious curry supper with wine or beer. Tickets will be on sale from midsummer.

Visiting Sun Rising

Please Stick to the Paths A reminder to visitors to keep to the mown paths and tracks throughout the summer. Meadow graves are not accessible from April to September. Do not trample through long grass and wildflowers as you may be crushing flowers on someone else's grave. Floral tributes ***must*** be left on the path edge or by memorial posts. Thank you!

Our Busy Times Calendar If you are planning a trip to Sun Rising and would like to avoid visiting at the same time as a funeral or other event, give us a call - or check the **Busy Times** tab on our *Visiting Sun Rising* page (sunrising.co.uk/visiting-sun-rising).

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. On our mailing list you'd receive an email once a month and are free to be removed at any time. You are welcome to print this or forward it to family and friends.