Sun Rising News

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

Autumn/Winter 2025-2026

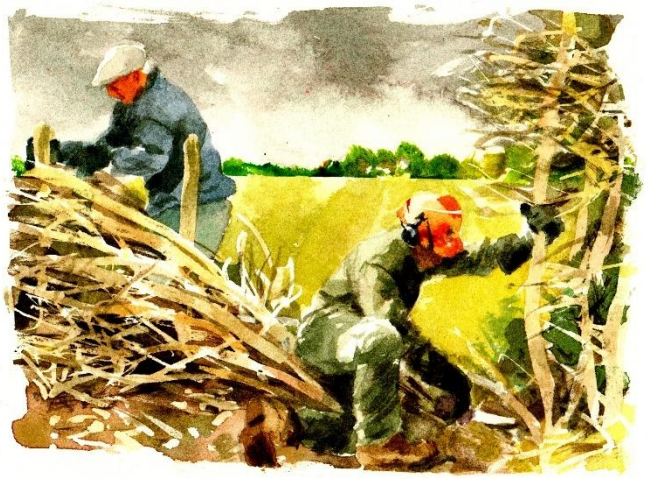
The Nature Reserve

The Pond A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our pond extension project. We were overwhelmed by the generosity and support that was given – thank you!

The loop was dug in early September, creating what is now Archie's Island. Of course, the new pond capacity needs to fill with rainwater, the ecosystem recovering. The work has left a good deal of bare soil which will be sown with wildflowers. We'll be extending the ditches through the pond meadow, adjusting the paths and putting in plenty of bulbs and plants over the coming year. Bear with us! It'll take a while to feel as calm and established as it was, but it will.

Bee Bank Using some of the excess soil from the pond work, we are now creating a bee bank, over the track from the butterfly stones. This is a bund of soil, with an almost vertical south-facing wall, bolstered with old bricks, slates, logs, sand and stones, perfect for bees and other invertebrates, for shelter, nesting and hibernation. It'll look bare for a while, as we build it, sowing and planting, but in time it'll be an invaluable habitat.

Hedge Laying The hedge along the lane is classed as 'ancient', being at least 200 years old, but it needs managing. If we leave it to grow, the base will become looser, opening up. The hedge was once laid, and we are looking at gradually laying stretches of it again. A laid section will feel very open to the lane, but in time it will thicken the hedge as a whole. Of course, we'll be keeping the healthy mature trees.



Guelder Rose Viburnum leaf beetle continues to be a problem at Sun Rising and in the surrounding landscape. Some families might have seen the leaves of guelder roses rather eaten. Having tried squishing the larvae, pruning and nematodes, we've now taken it off our list of memorial trees until we find a solution. If you have worries about a guelder rose, or ideas for a solution, do please let us know.

News

Welcoming Harriet The newest member of the Sun Rising team is Harriet Milbourne, who joined us in March and has now completed her first six months. Harriet will be working both with Liberty on funerals and with Steve in the nature reserve.

Events

Planting Weekend **Saturday 11 – Sunday 12 Oct, 10 am - 3 pm**. We will have plenty of native bulbs, some pots and seeds this year, but do order in advance as we tend to run out quickly. Let us know if you'd like our list of what is available.

Note: we do not recommend planting on a grave that is less than a year old, as the earth usually needs a winter to settle.

Picture: Hedge Laying by Philip Bannister

Fungi Walk **Tuesday 18 November, 10 - 12** Our final nature walk of the year, this is a chance to discover what is on site, identify what we can. Book in advance.

Art Auction and Curry Supper
Saturday 25 October, 6 - 10 pm There are 40 - 45 paintings by various artists, most with a nature theme, both originals and prints. The best will be auctioned, but other pieces will be sold by silent auction or set price. Have a look at the catalogue on our Events page (https://sunrising.co.uk/event/art-auction-and-supper/)!

With the artwork donated, the proceeds all go to The Friends of Sun Rising. Tickets are £25, and include a delicious curry supper and your first glass of wine or bottle of beer. Don't delay - get your tickets today! Email friends@sunrising.co.uk.

Armistice Day **Tuesday 11 Nov, 10.45 am.** This is our annual non-religious gathering to acknowledge those affected by conflict. All are welcome.

Christmas in the Longhouse **Sunday 21 December, 11 am – 3 pm.** A beautiful event for all: there'll be mulled wine and mince pies, and a local choir singing carols and other festive songs. The Friends stall will be here, with plenty of Christmas present ideas, natural honey, calendars, tea towels, candles, key rings, nestboxes and more. Our Memory Tree will be up, for you to leave messages for those laid to rest here or elsewhere.

The stall and memory tree will also be up in the Longhouse during our memorial tree planting, on Fri 5 – Sun 7 Dec and Fri 12 – Sun 14 Dec, 10 am – 3 pm. Come along!

The Friends of Sun Rising

The Friends' AGM and Talk This year's AGM was on Saturday 13 September in Tysoe Village Hall. It was a lovely event, with plenty of friends, old and new. After the presentation, we had a valuable talk by Rosemary Collier OBE, on local nature recovery initiatives.

Golden Hares From September 2025, anyone who makes a donation of more than £1000 becomes one of our Golden Hare subscribers, receiving a beautiful certificate.

New Trustee Martin Head has now joined the board of Trustees of The Friends and is bringing plenty of new energy.

Christmas or Winter Cards Our winter cards are still just £9 for six, or £7.50 per pack if you buy two or more packs. Being blank inside, they work as Christmas cards or winter notelets. They are available on our Friends' stall or we can send them by post for a small P&P fee.

Visitors

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

Christmas Wreaths and Tributes
Wreaths can stay on graves until 6 January, but must comply with our Regulations: no wire, oasis, plastic, glue, dyes, sparkles or pots. Anything that doesn't comply is removed immediately and disposed of.

Jacqui at Hope and Glory Flowers is holding a wreath making workshop at Tysoe Post office, on **Sunday 7 December, 10.30 - 12**, especially for laying at Sun Rising. Call 07816 403798 to book a place.

Let's take care of the planet, reduce rubbish, and make all our wreaths and tributes natural this Christmas!

Sun Rising Winter / Christmas Cards 2025

