Sun Rising News

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

Spring/Summer 2026

The Nature Reserve

Over the wet winter, our newly enlarged **pond** filled quickly. Of course, the edges collapsed in places as it settled into a form that nature was happy with. We've planted marsh marigolds, water avens and other pond species, but on the whole the area will green up by itself.

The caller on our **swift tower** will be on between April and July, sending out calls for a few hours each morning and evening, letting passing swifts know the nesting places are there. It's optimistic to hope pairs will nest with us this year, but we're aiming for 2027!

Over the spring and summer, we'll continue to work on our new **bee bank**. We have slates, bricks, stones, logs and other materials to incorporate, making places for solitary bees, ichneumon wasps, ladybirds, lacewings, spiders and other invertebrates to nest and shelter.

Sun Rising is Twenty!

At the start of 2026 we laid to rest our 2000th individual here at Sun Rising. Of course, it's just a number, but it felt like a significant milestone. That our first burial was in 2006, making this our twentieth year, adds to the realization of how much Sun Rising has developed and grown over the years. Thank you to all who have been a part of that!



20th Anniversary with **The Banbury Cross Players** **Saturday 18 July, 10.30 am – 6 pm** Come and celebrate with us! In the morning, there'll be a **walk** around the local hills and meadows (book in advance) and **tai chi** on the grass. We'll be marking our anniversary at 2 pm with cake and thanks, and our **20 Years of Sun Rising** display.

At 3 pm, award-winning drama company, the **Banbury Cross Players**, will present a marvellous range of outdoor theatrical entertainment, all with a rural theme.

There'll be **refreshments** all day and tasty veggie BBQ, a **treasure hunt** around the grounds for children of all ages, a summer **tombola**, and of course our own **stall** with goodies and gifts, all in aid of the Friends. Do join us for this important day!

NB! If you'd like to help with parking or refreshments, or bring cake or something else for the refreshments stall, let us know. We'll need plenty of **volunteers**!

The Daffodil Appeal In October we aim to plant 2000 native English daffodils in the meadow above the pond as a beautiful living memorial, one for each person laid to rest here. If you haven't already done so, do please sponsor one or more daffodils! They are just £10 each.

With the 2000 daffodils, we aim to raise £20,000 for the crucial endowment fund that will protect and care for the grounds into the long-term future.

Check the Daffodil Appeal online, or get in touch for information about how to sponsor by cash, cheque, card or BACS.

Picture: Goat Willow Catkins by Philip Bannister

Open Day **Saturday 23 May, 10 am – 4 pm** An opportunity to talk about your own wishes, plans and requirements. Spread the word and pop along with family, friends and neighbours. There will be cake!

Nature Events

These events are by donation. Please ***book in advance.***

Birdsong, Spring Migrants and the Pond's Wildlife **Saturday 25 April, 10 – 12.30** A walk to focus on spring's new life, celebrating the newly enlarged pond too, and checking the dipping pond for wildlife. Also suitable for accompanied children.

Mindful Sun Rising **Wednesday 13 May, 10.30 – 12.30** Find calm, connecting and immersing yourself in nature through sight, sound, touch and smell. A gentle, creative, healing time in a chaotic world.

Bees, Butterflies, Dragons and More **Tuesday 23 June, 2 – 4 pm** Come and explore the wonderful world of invertebrates, humming, buzzing and fluttering around us!

Grasses and Wildflowers **Wednesday 15 July, 10.30 – 12.30** 80% of a wildflower meadow is made up of grasses, and we have over 30 species at Sun Rising. Come and learn what is what on this gentle walk.

Friends of Sun Rising

Pub Quiz in the Longhouse **Friday 12 June, 6 – 9 pm** Bring a team of four or join another team for our fun quiz! Tickets are £15 per person, to be bought in advance, to include your first glass of wine or bottle of beer, and delicious snacks. Prizes include a gift cards for The Castle in Edge Hill!

Art for Sale in the Longhouse **Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 August, 10 am – 6 pm** We have some beautiful original paintings, prints, photographs and more, all for sale in aid of The Friends. Have a look at the online gallery. We're happy to accept sales to those who can't attend on the day. Do come along if you can. There'll be refreshments throughout the day.

The Friends of Sun Rising AGM **Saturday 12 September, 2 – 5 pm** Far from a dull affair, our AGM is a friendly and informative occasion with plenty of cake! After the usual update about the charity, this year Sun Rising founder, Emma Restall Orr, will be giving an illustrated talk on **Sun Rising at Twenty,** showing just how far we've come in all those years.

Legacies Adding a gift to the Friends in your Will is an easy way of helping us protect and manage Sun Rising into the future. There's more information on our Legacies page online, or get in touch.

Visiting Sun Rising

CCTV Visitors may notice that we now have CCTV cameras on poles in both north and south car parks. This is not because we've experienced problems, however we do hope they will be a deterrent for any potential issues, and also for those who are still walking dogs despite our NO DOGS signs aplenty!

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 **Busy Times** on 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 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.