

Sun Rising News

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

Autumn/Winter 2013-2014



Welcome to our autumn/winter newsletter, published in September 2013.

Bulb Planting

If you'd like bulbs on or near a particular grave you can buy them through us, to plant yourself or for us to plant. We'll be planting on Sat 12 October, 11 am – 1 pm. Bulbs are 50p each. You're also free to buy bulbs yourself, but – NB – the only ones allowed at the nature reserve are native :

English Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)
Field Garlic (*Allium oleraceum*)
Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*)
Snakeshead Fritillary (*Fritillaria meleagris*)
Snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*)
Wild Daffodil (*Narcissus pseudo-narcissus*)
Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*)

Last year we removed tulips, large and double daffodils, and Spanish bluebells, so please do be aware of our restrictions.

11 November

On Armistice Day there will be our usual gathering at the cairn. Unless the weather is bitter, our period of silence will be longer than the usual two minutes, allowing for private meditation and reflection. All are welcome. Please arrive for 10.45 and join us at the cairn.

Tree Planting 2013

Weather-permitting, planting of memorial trees this winter will be on Fri 29 November - Sun 2 December, Fri 6 - Sun 9 December, and Fri 13 to Sat 14 December. Families due to plant a tree will be sent an invitation in October to fit into the planting schedule.

If you would like to plant a tree, do get in touch: we welcome memorial trees for those buried at Sun Rising, and those buried or scattered elsewhere. Each native tree adds to the nature reserve, building this precious legacy for generations to come.

Carols at Sun Rising

On Sunday 15 December, 11 – 12.30 or so, we're holding a Christmas fundraiser for the Friends of Sun Rising. With a small local choir, carols to join in with, mince pies and mulled wine, all are very welcome. There will also be eco-friendly wreaths for sale. Do come along, to sing or just to listen, and give generously to the Friends.

Christmas Day

As last year, there will be a brazier, mince pies and a warm greeting at Sun Rising between 10 am and noon on 25 December.

Mowing

Over the summer, we adopted a new policy with regard to mowing. Woodland graves over 3 years old were left without paths, allowing the wildflowers to grow unchecked, while grass in newer areas was mown. Meadow areas, and the cremated remains woodland area, were not mown, as has been our policy all along – except around new graves. Feedback so far has been positive, but do let us know what you think.

The Wooden Cabin

The new cabin at Sun Rising was built in September: we do hope that you like it. Very simple, with no running water or electricity, the



Picture : Two Fieldfare by Robin Restall

small office space will have no more than a desk and a few chairs, but will provide a place where families can sit with Emma or another member of staff, to talk about funerals, options, or life's ups and downs. The new toilet will be of interest - but don't rely on it being open. Accessible through the office, it will only be open when a member of staff is on site. The toilet is a 'dry composting toilet', so it doesn't have the white ceramic elegance of your average facility, e.g. a handful of sawdust must be put down after each use!

Friends of Sun Rising

Working alongside Nature Reserve Burial Grounds at Sun Rising is the charity, The Friends of Sun Rising. This is the organisation that will look after the site in the long run when the site no longer has an income as a burial ground.

The charity's objectives are twofold. Primarily its aim is to raise money, creating a capital fund that will come into play when it takes over the care of Sun Rising.

From September 2013 it will also be possible to become a friend of Sun Rising, paying an annual subscription of just £10. Every penny goes to the Friends and will help to secure the site into the long term. Friends will be invited to come to the AGM in September each year, where news about Sun Rising will be shared. We would also hope to have a speaker come to talk about some relevant subject of interest.

You may have received a form for joining the Friends with this newsletter, but if not, please do get in touch. Subscriptions are annual, running from 1 November.

Adding to subscriptions, funds are also raised through selling our honey and greetings cards. There are also events held at Sun Rising, such as this winter's carols, music recitals, storytelling and poetry, all in aid of the Friends. Other ideas are in the pipeline. We are always happy to hear suggestions. Subscribing friends may wish to get involved, whether selling honey to their own family and friends, or even arranging a fund raising event.



The second objective of the charity is to support the work of the company in its creation and care of the beautiful, peaceful place that is Sun Rising. This help may come in the form of active volunteering, helping out at events, feeding the birds, raking at the haycut, or simply in spreading the word about Sun Rising through your own groups and communities. If you are interested in possibilities, let us know.

More information about the Friends can now be found on the Sun Rising website (follow the links to the Friends on the top menu). There is also a new logo – shown below. Created and donated by trustee Tim Howe, it depicts one of our resident hares, bounding over the meadow, with all its wonderful vibrancy and serenity.

The Friends are run by a board of trustees that, over the years, will gradually grow and adapt to the needs of the charity. We are currently looking for a new trustee and would like to invite applications for the role. In particular we are seeking someone with experience of fundraising for charities, who is well connected within the broad catchment area of Sun Rising, ideally with a personal link to the burial ground. They will need to attend four meetings per year, be reliable, of decent character, and able to submit references.

Busy Times

As Sun Rising becomes busier, with more funerals and memorial services, there will inevitably be times when families may wish to visit loved ones, arriving to find the car park full and the site busy with people. We appreciate how frustrating this may feel. If you are aiming to come on a certain day, please do feel free to call Emma in the office to check and see if the burial ground will be quiet.

Mailing List

If you'd like to receive this newsletter and other updates but are not on our mailing list, do get in touch. To save paper, we prefer to send it out by email, but will do so by post for those who are not online. You're always free to print it if you'd like to.

Nature Reserve Burial Grounds

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