

Sun Rising News

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

Spring / Summer 2014



Nature Watch Days 2014 As the nature reserve develops, it is crucial that we note the presence of everything we see: flowers, grasses, insects, birds, pond life and more. Working with the Warwickshire Biological Records Centre, we are now using a new recording system that will enable us to track everything found on our 16 acres clearly and effectively. Whether an expert or a curious amateur, everyone is welcome. Do come along and help to survey!

- Saturday 26 April, 6am - Noon
- Sunday 22 June, 11 am – 5 pm
- Sunday 10 August, 2 – 8 pm

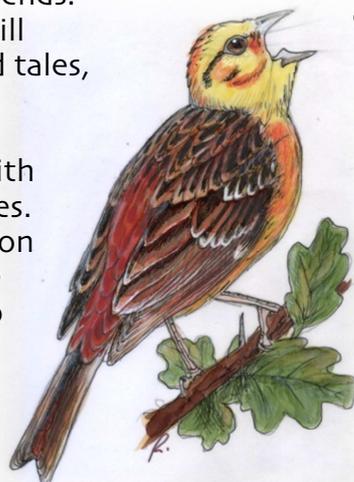
Our ecologist Mark will be available for nature walks on each of these days.

We shall also be having our first moth identification session, although whether we entice any moth experts along is yet to be confirmed! Tying in with Moth Night nationally, this will be held on Friday 4 July. Tell us if you'd like to come as it is weather-dependent.

Open Day and Folk Music On Saturday 31 May, from 11 – 3, we shall have our annual Open Day, when staff will be on-hand to give tours around Sun Rising, or talk through ideas and last wishes with regard to funerals.

At 3 pm on the day there will be music in the Roundhouse in aid of The Friends. Donald McCombie and friends will present a blend of folk music and tales, interspersed with dance by the celebrated Adderbury Morris.

There will be refreshments, with teas, coffee, sandwiches and cakes. Let us know if you'd like to help on the day, or to donate to the cake stand. Everything sold will go to The Friends.



Mark Rylance Performance On Saturday 13 September, world renowned Shakespearean actor, star of big and small screen, Mark Rylance, will be giving a performance at Sun Rising. Starting at 2 pm, exactly what Mark and friends will be offering will be clarified nearer the time. Tickets will be limited. On sale in advance, they are £10 per person, and include a cream tea. If the weather is awful, the event will relocate to a nearby indoor venue.

Bulbs and Planting on Graves When we lay someone to rest in the natural burial ground, we imagine the grave covered with beautiful wildflowers, the tree grown tall and strong, bluebells beneath it. It takes a few years to get to this point though: as with so many aspect of grief, nature teaches us to be patient.

Graves at Sun Rising are left to settle naturally; after the first settling, the grave is topped up, with a little more earth put on over the coming years. In the first summer, the bare earth may attract plants that grow easily, such as charlock, dandelion, thistle and wild carrot. It is only in the second summer after the grave has settled that seeds sown or self-seeded from the meadows will start coming through.

Trees hide in their shelters for a year or two, their roots getting established, only starting to pull away in their fourth year. With a good mix of sunshine and showers, they may then put on a foot of growth through a summer.

Where a family would like to plant bulbs or wildflowers, we are happy for them to do so, but it is crucial that these are plants found on our Sun Rising Wild Flowers List. These are plants native to the landscape and soil, not garden

cultivars or non-natives that compromise the nature reserve. This spring we have had to remove a number of the latter, including Anemone blanda, crocuses, large daffodils, love-in-the-mist, tulips, hyacinths and more.

Please do ask for our List if you would like to plant something on a loved one's grave, or simply wait for nature to do its own thing!

Mowing Through the summer, we shall be regularly mowing the verges, paths and new burial areas at Sun Rising, including paths between woodland graves 3 years old and less. As usual, the cremated remains woodland and the meadows are not mown, allowing the wildflowers and grasses to grow freely until the hay cut in August or September.

If you regularly visit a grave in an area which is not mown, please be aware that you may be walking over graves. If you would like a path mown, get in touch and we can look at possibilities that allow you access while respecting other families' wishes, other graves and the nature reserve.

The Cabin It is wonderful to have the new cabin at Sun Rising, with its space for meetings and the eco-toilet. We hope you like it! Remember that it is only open when a member of staff is onsite. If you do visit and see it is open, come over and say hello! We may even have some Sun Rising honey or greetings cards for sale.

Some may have heard that it was broken into in late January, the woodstove being stolen: police believe this was professional metal thieves, who sadly also took our chairs. The response from families and the local community has been beautifully supportive: we'd like to thank everyone for their letters, calls, donations, and the offers of help and replacements. Bless you!

Early in the summer, we shall be building a small stone fireplace in the cabin (with no metal) to ensure there is warmth through the winter. Instead of chairs, there will be benches made of reclaimed wood, built into the cabin frame.



The Friends of Sun Rising

Working alongside the burial ground company is our charity, The Friends of Sun Rising. Subscription is just £10 a year, running from 1 November to 31 October each year.

Friends should note that the AGM, open to all Friends, will be held on Saturday 6 September at 3pm in Tysoe. This year, after a summary of the Friends' work, there will be a talk entitled 'Sun Rising in a Hundred Years', presenting an idea of what the site will look like in the future.

Photographs Some may have seen the large pictures of some of Emma's photos taken at Sun Rising hanging on the walls in the cabin. If you would like any of Emma's photographs on the website, blown up to A1 (33" x 23.4") on card (£50) or canvas (£75), these are available, sold in aid of The Friends. Just choose the photograph and let us know.

Commemorative Colours To note the 50th anniversary of the Britain in Bloom competition this year's theme is 'Going for Gold for pollinating insects', so we've sown some corn marigolds. A native cornfield annual, flowering June – October, it prefers a lighter soil, but we hope it may do well on the well-drained bank behind the pond.

Another wild flower we've sown this year, to mark the 1914 centenary, is the red poppy. This native also prefers lighter, disturbed soil, but do look out for them at Sun Rising. We hope a few may show their face and remind us of the blessing of peace.

Busy Times If you are aiming to visit Sun Rising on a particular day, do feel free to call Emma in the office to make sure that a large funeral or memorial service is not taking place. We know how frustrating it can be to arrive to find the car park full.

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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