

# Sun Rising News

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

## Spring/Summer 2015



### Open Day and Roll of Remembrance

On Saturday 6 June, 11am – 3pm, we shall have our annual Open Day. This is a chance to talk to Sun Rising manager, Emma, about ideas, wishes and concerns, thinking about your own future or that of a loved one. You can also take a tour around the site with David or Mark who will explain how the site is maintained and how it is managed for wildlife.

Refreshments will be available all day - filled baps, cakes, teas, coffees and cordials - in aid of The Friends of Sun Rising.

After the Open Day, 3 – 5pm, we are holding our second **Roll of Remembrance**, when the name of every individual buried or remembered with a memorial at Sun Rising will be read aloud. This is a beautiful, respectful event, offering an opportunity to reflect and remember. All are welcome. The names will be read in two sections, alphabetically, with refreshments available during the break.

Such events are always enriched by the involvement of families. If you would like to help out on our refreshments stall, if you would like to bring a cake, cupcakes or biscuits for the stand, or if you would like to be one of our readers, do let us know.

**Friends of Sun Rising** The Friends is a hugely important part of what we do at Sun Rising. This is the charity that will take care of the burial ground and nature reserve in the long run: its key purpose now is to raise money for the future. We are always looking for individuals who are keen to get involved, either fundraising, or becoming a

trustee. If you are interested, please let us know and we'll let you have more information.

Subscribing Friends may like to make a note that this year's **Friends AGM** will be held on Sunday 27 September (2 – 5 pm).

### The Nature Reserve

Over the past year, our list of flora and fauna has been growing, with new plants in the wildflower meadow, the pond ecosystem developing, woodland floor beginning to emerge beneath older memorial trees. As an 'ecosite', ecologists and county recorders are increasingly interested in our progress, and we are keen to get *everyone* involved. This year our **Nature Watch Days** are on Saturday 11 April (8am – 1pm), Saturday 27 June (2 – 8 pm) and Sunday 16 August (12 - 4 pm): all are welcome, expert or amateur. On each of these days there will be Nature Walks around the site: do let us know if you are interested and we can give you the times.

On Saturday 27 June a **Moth Night** will be led by county moth recorder, David Brown. As a night event (from 9 pm) it is open only to those over 16 years of age.

Let us know if you intend to come along to any of these dates, so that if we have to postpone we can let you know.

**An Evening of Storytelling** On Saturday 26 September, we are holding an evening of storytelling at Sun Rising in aid of The Friends. Spaces will be limited to 30. Tickets are £12 each, to include a mug of hot cocoa. Get in touch if you've any questions, or you'd like to book a seat on the straw bales for an hour of stories at sunset ...



**What's Eating My Tree** Trees, like people, can suffer from a variety of ailments – bacterial or viral, caused by fungi, insects, inadequate nutrition or physical damage. Also like people, trees are more likely to succumb to disease if they are stressed in some way. Stress can be caused by weather, environmental changes, pollution, or anything else that makes life hard.

Most of the memorial trees planted at Sun Rising do very well, but occasionally some will be affected by pests and diseases of one sort or another, especially when other stress factors are involved. Some trees, like cherries, will attract aphids. In an orchard or garden - where fruit or appearance is important - this can be a real nuisance, but in a nature reserve these aphids are a valuable part of the food chain. We would only consider treating an aphid outbreak if it were a real threat to the health of a number of trees. Often by removing the tree's protective guard for a while, so making it easier for birds and other creatures to eat the aphids, an outbreak is controlled. Likewise caterpillars may eat some of a tree's leaves, but in an ecologically-balanced environment the birds will keep their numbers down - and these caterpillars will eventually pupate into nature's array of beautiful moths and butterflies.

Trees can also develop galls, which are caused by insects laying their eggs in the buds or leaves. These may look strange, but will not normally cause much harm to a tree. The insects and their pupa also provide food for birds and other animals. Galls come in a variety of forms depending on the insects that cause them - from nail-like protrusions on leaves to hard marble or softer apple-like growths on oak trees and roses.

In Sun Rising's heavy clay soil it can often take trees a while to establish before they start to put on reasonable growth. This is particularly true of slower growing trees like oaks. Just because little is happening above ground it doesn't mean the tree is sick; it is just putting its energy into re-establishing its root system. This can take up to three years in some cases, but the tree will then suddenly start to put on plenty of leaves and grow.

Do ask us if you're concerned.

**Plans for 2015** Visitors may have noticed that, over the winter, two new banks of trees and shrubs have been planted: one along the lane and one down the southern boundary hedge, with thanks to some hearty volunteers! As these little saplings grow over the coming few years they will provide more habitat and protection for the site. This summer, a major development will be a new stretch of drainage through the grassland from the lane to the pond. This is one of a number of steps needed to create a large new area of wildflower meadow in the southwest corner of the site over the coming years.

**Wildflower Seeds** We have now created packs of specially selected wildflower seeds for families to sow on woodland or meadow graves - or indeed elsewhere. Packs are £2.50 each. Let us know if you'd like to buy a pack or two.



### **Music at Sun Rising**

Next summer, we would love to hold another musical event at Sun Rising and wonder if you have ideas for a band or performer who would be willing to play in aid of The Friends? We're looking for smooth jazz, a string quartet, an *acappella* choir, or the like: music for a lazy summer's afternoon. We'll provide a cream tea accompaniment. Let us know?

**Busy Times** If you are aiming to visit Sun Rising on a particular day, do call to make sure that a large funeral or memorial 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, 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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