

Sun Rising News

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

Autumn/Winter 2016



Sun Rising at Ten Years Having reached our tenth anniversary this year, it's been a time of reflection at Sun Rising. We've been remembering the empty field when it was nothing but grass, the first funerals, planting the hedge and the first trees. With some memorial trees now ten years old, it becomes easier to imagine what the younger trees will look like as woodland. The oldest trees are now around 20 foot tall, the canopy beginning to close and the woodland floor developing in the shade underneath.

New Developments Having laid a new drainage line in 2015, then new stone tracks this past year, we can now start the process of developing further areas of ecological habitats. There'll be some tree planting this winter, and next summer we are aiming to sow another acre of wildflower meadow.

A Sun Rising Calendar An idea suggested by The Friends of Sun Rising last year is a calendar of photographs of the burial ground and nature reserve, taken by families and friends. If you would like to **submit a photo** (at least 3mB please), please email it to the office. The deadline is 31 March 2017, but send them when you think about it! Calendars will be printed and available for sale from the summer for 2018.

Bulbs, Seeds and Planting on Graves This year, our **Bulb Planting Day** will be on Sunday 23rd October, 11 am – 1 pm. We will have a range of native bulbs, and some

perennials for families to plant on and around graves. Please let us know if you'd like some bulbs by 6th October. All plants will be on a first-come first-serve basis.

Over the past season, fewer non-native plants have had to be removed from the site, so a big thank you to families for following our guidance. A serious and ongoing challenge is bluebells; Spanish and hybrid bluebells are terribly hard to remove, so please only put in bluebell bulbs that you have got from us.



Armistice Day
As usual, there will be a gathering at the cairn at 10.45 for 11 am on 11th November, a Friday this year. This is a non-religious event to remember all those who have died in conflicts, near and far, old and new. All are welcome.

Tree Planting The planting of memorial trees will be in November to mid December as usual.

On **Sunday 27th November**, rather than memorial trees, we will be putting in a new plantation by the top car park. If you'd like to come and help plant the trees as one of our volunteers, please let us know.

Carols at Sun Rising This year we are very pleased to have another gathering of singers to lead the caroling event. The date is Sunday 18th December at 2 - 4pm. There will be mulled wine and mince pies in aid of The Friends of Sun Rising, and a Christmas tombola. Everyone is welcome. Let us know if you are able to donate prizes or mince pies!

Christmas Wreaths Over the Christmas period, we are aware that some families like to place seasonal tributes on graves and by memorial trees. As long as these are in keeping with the natural burial ground (all natural materials and colours), these will be left until Friday 6th January.

We shall have a number of natural wreaths available for families again this year. Made by florist Amanda Luther, these are eco-friendly, fit perfectly around tree plaque posts and cost £15 each, all the profit going to The Friends of Sun Rising. Let us have your order by 30th November.

Christmas Day Sun Rising is open as usual on Sunday 25th December. In the morning, there'll be tea, coffee, and company for those in need of a little warmth on the day.

Christmas Cards If you would like any of our Sun Rising winter cards, as Christmas cards, gifts, or simply as greetings cards, let us know. They come in packs of 6 for £9, 2 packs for £15. Please add £2.50 postage and packing for up to four packs, or get in touch for larger quantities. Sold in aid of The Friends, the cards depict Sun Rising in winter, and can be seen at: <http://sunrisingburialground.co.uk/friends/christmascards.html>.

Birdfeeders Our two large birdfeeders have done very well over the years, with careful attention of our volunteer Tim Howe, but they now need to be replaced. If you'd like to sponsor a new feeder, or contribute to its replacement, please let us know. Also, keeping them topped up costs around £10 a week, so donations for birdseed are always welcome.

Habitat Interpretation Boards As part of the nature reserve, we are creating small habitat interpretation boards that will be positioned around the site in order to inform visitors about the different areas. There'll be boards for the wildflower meadow, young woodland, grassland, the ruderal and tussock margins, the pond, and so on.

We'd like *your input* before we create the boards. Laminated drafts will be placed in situ in the autumn for you to see and comment, or we can email you a set to review. Our aim will be to create and install the final boards in late spring 2017.



Example Habitat Interpretation Board

The Friends of Sun Rising The Friends' AGM was held on 17th September with 42 attending. It was a gentle, creative and companionable day, enjoyed by all. If you would like a copy of the Minutes, let us know: they are available for all subscribing Friends to read. The annual subscription is just £10, and for those who would find it easier, it is now possible to join or renew membership online. Just follow the links to The Friends from the Sun Rising website.

The Coming of Spring After a cold, wet winter, the first signs of spring are always a delight. Let us know when you spot the first snowdrops, catkins, lesser celandine, daffodils, and we can share it with others through the Sun Rising blog.

Busy Times You are always welcome at Sun Rising. If you are hoping for a time of peace and tranquility, do feel free to give us a call to check it is not a busy day.

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 by email, but will happily post it to those not online. You're welcome to print or forward it to family and friends.

Nature Reserve Burial Grounds

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