

Sun Rising News

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

Spring/Summer 2016 Tenth Anniversary Edition



Open Day On Saturday 18 June, 11am – 3pm, we shall have our annual Open Day. This is an opportunity to talk to staff about any and every aspect of Sun Rising, such as ethical, affordable, individual funerals, the nature reserve or long term security. Pop along on the day, or tell your friends.

Jazz in the Roundhouse Sun Rising opened in June 2006, and after our Open Day on 18 June, we'll be celebrating our tenth anniversary with some wonderful summer music: smooth jazz from professional trio, the Hot Tone Rhythm Boys. Between 3 – 5 pm, there will be cream teas, a raffle, and fun events such as a scavenger hunt for the children. This is a fundraiser for The Friends, so do come along and support us.

We will need help too! – If you'd like to contribute to the refreshments, donate prizes, or can do an hour on the tea stall, please let us know.

Nature Watch and Bioblitz This year, we shall be holding just one Nature Watch day, on Saturday 25 June, 11 am – 4 pm. This will be a *bioblitz*, or full site survey, when we aim to record every single species we can find! Everyone is welcome, whether expert or amateur – come along and share your knowledge, or learn more about nature and the nature reserve.

Children's Memorial Day On Saturday 30 July we are holding a Children's Memorial Day at Sun Rising, specifically to remember those little ones lost in their first moments or years of life. There will be a ceremony, suitable for spiritual and non-religious alike, followed by a picnic to share. To ensure we can create a gentle and

intimate event, the day is open only to the families and friends of little ones buried at Sun Rising. Places must be booked in advance.

The Friends of Sun Rising The Friends - the charity that will care for Sun Rising in the long term – is a crucial aspect of the work we do. As ever, we are looking for people willing to help with fundraising projects and events, either casually or by becoming a trustee. We are also keen to find someone who can give ethical financial advice. Do let us know if you can help.

Hedgehogs While the presence of hedgehogs is fairly well recorded in urban areas, few surveys take place in open countryside. With hedgehogs disappearing in England as quickly as tigers are in the wider world, this year we are going to see if there are hedgehogs at Sun Rising. This means three weeks of surveying through the summer. If you'd like to help in some way, let us know!



Birds Last year new nesting boxes for barn owls, little owls, treecreepers and tree sparrows were put up at Sun Rising: we'll let you know if they are used! This year, comprehensive bird surveys will be carried out to help us monitor just what species we have onsite and what we can do better for them.

The Tussock Margin
Visitors may have noticed the strip along the western hedge that was ploughed in October 2015. This was sown with a

blend of wildflowers and grasses to create a tussock margin. This year, much of what germinates will be weeds in the seedbed, rather than what we've sown. Next year though, as the wildflowers start to establish, it will be mown in sections, every three years, allowing the growth to form into thick tussocks of vegetation. These are a perfect habitat for small mammals, moths and other creatures.

A Sun Rising Calendar

This year we are looking at creating a calendar of Sun Rising photographs for sale at Christmas for 2017 in aid of The Friends. You are invited to submit photographs for consideration. The photographs must have been taken at Sun Rising and be at least 3mB in size. Send one, or up to a dozen; we'll need one for every month of the year.

Coffee Mornings and Picnics Have you ever found yourself trying to explain to friends just what makes Sun Rising such a special place, or even why it is so important to put your own wishes in place? Why not host a coffee morning, and Emma will come along and talk about Sun Rising. It could be a fundraiser for The Friends, your local hospice or another charity too.

Alternatively, how about a picnic at Sun Rising on a sunny summer's afternoon, with a tour of the grounds and all those awkward questions answered? Go on, see if your friends might be interested!

News and Pictures Friends and families who use the internet may like to stay more connected. You can subscribe to our blog, *like* our Facebook page, or follow us on Flickr. If you can't find us online, just ask.

Your Input: Earth One aspect of any burial ground is the considerable movement of earth. For the average grave, we dig out 3 tons, a ton of which isn't replaced when we backfill after a funeral - that's 10 to 12



wheelbarrows. Over the course of the next few years, 6 to 8 barrows will go back on each grave, but in the meantime that earth needs to be kept somewhere. Are you aware of earth piles, or 'spoil heaps', at Sun Rising? Do you think these are unsightly or just part of the working environment? Your input will help us make decisions in the future and keep our standards high.

This Newsletter As our mailing list increases, we would like to be sure our newsletters are not being sent by post to those who no longer read them. If you have been on our mailing list

longer than 5 years (since 2010 or before), and receive the newsletter printed by post, please let us know if you'd like to continue to receive it. NB: If we don't hear from you, you will be removed from the list.

Sowing and Planting on Graves It is possible for you to plant or sow seeds on graves, but only if what you put in are on our *Acceptable Plants* list. Everything else will be removed. Remember, we also have packs of specially selected wildflower seeds both for woodland and meadow graves.

Feedback We are always very keen to hear from individuals and families who are connected with Sun Rising. If you have feedback that will help us improve our service and the site, please let us know.

Busy Times We know how frustrating it can be to arrive at Sun Rising only to find the car park is full. If you're aiming to visit on a particular day, feel free to call - we can let you know if a large funeral or memorial is taking place, or if the day will be quiet.

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.