

# Sun Rising News

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

## Spring/Summer 2019

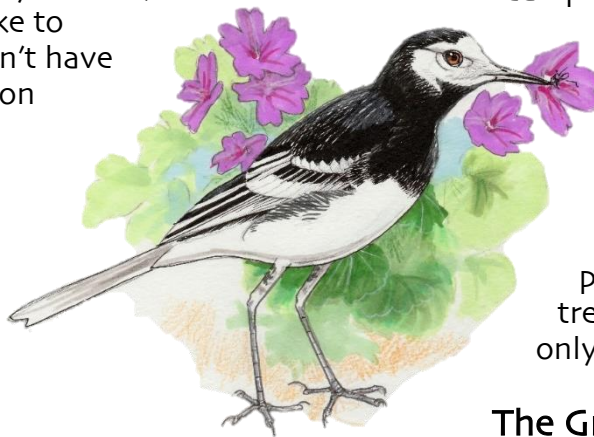


### News

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**New Website** In February 2019, after three months working with Oxford-based designer Niki Peach, we were able to publish our new website. The address is the same: <https://sunrisingburialground.co.uk>. Have a look around, check the newsflash feature on the front page, the events and gallery. Any feedback would be welcome.

**Tramper** In October 2018, we took delivery of an off-road mobility scooter, our Tramper. If you would like to explore the whole site but don't have the mobility, with a brief lesson and/or support you would be welcome to borrow the Tramper. It can also be used at funerals to enable the less mobile to attend, where we can walk alongside, managing the controls. Please get in touch.



### The Nature Reserve

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**Please Stick to the Paths** This is a heartfelt plea for families not to walk through the long grasses and flowers during the summer months. If you do, you'll leave an unsightly trail of trodden vegetation, possibly right across someone's grave. At the same time, you may be crushing precious orchids and other wildflowers. Throughout the summer, please stay on the mown paths and stone tracks.

**The New Wildflower Meadow** In late 2017 we began work creating another 1.5 acres of wildflower meadow. Sadly, the heavy spring rains and summer drought of 2018 washed away seed, then scorched new growth. We are hoping that this summer

will be kinder, and plenty of the seed sown will begin to germinate and flourish.

**Looking after Young Trees** 2018 was the first year that we needed to water young trees due to the heat and drought. After a dry winter, and in case the summer is dry too, with the help of volunteers all the young trees have been mulched with a ring of composted bark. In the context of a nature reserve, it is best *not* to water trees: they need to send their roots down into the damp soil, increasing their stability and resilience. Watering, on the other hand, encourages shallow rooting where the soil repeatedly dries out. As the summer progresses, we'll monitor trees carefully and water only if necessary.

**The Grassland** July 2018 was the last time that the grassland in the northern half of the site was cut and baled as a single hay crop. From this growing season forward, we will no longer be clear-cutting. Instead, the area will be managed in 3 – 4 year cycles. This will mean areas will become tussocky, with clumps of long and matted grass. In this way, we are beginning to manage the whole site as a nature reserve, making another step-change to its ecological value. We would hope to see a significant increase in the number of butterflies, moths, birds and hares.

### Events

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**Dying Matters Awareness Event**  
Saturday 18 May, 10.30 – 12.30. As part of a national initiative, we'll be holding an

informal gathering at Sun Rising. Come and share stories, ideas, fears and inspiration on the theme of death and dying, and what we can do to make the journey easier for all.

**Open Day** Saturday 8 June, 11 am – 3 pm, is our annual open day. It is an opportunity to meet staff and trustees, have a tour around the site and talk about your own needs and wishes. Please tell your friends!

**Roll of Remembrance** takes place after the open day on Saturday 8 June, 3 – 5 pm. This is our biennial event when the name of every person laid to rest or remembered at Sun Rising is read aloud. It is a very moving event, full of love and respect. There'll be afternoon tea on sale in aid of The Friends, as well as our delicious honey.

Let us know if you'd like to be involved in any way, contributing cakes, helping with refreshments or parking.

**Nature Walk** Saturday 29 June, 11.30 am and 3 pm. These guided walks are specifically for those who would like to learn more about the nature reserve – its trees and plants, butterflies and birds. Morning and afternoon walks will be the same, with an initial short, gentle walk for those who can't go far, and an extended ramble over the whole site for those who'd like to see more. All are welcome.

**Nature Surveying Days** Saturday 13 April, Saturday 22 June and Saturday 24 August, 10 am – 4 pm. These are opportunities to contribute to the recording of all the flora (and any fauna we happen upon) at Sun Rising. Those with expertise are gratefully received, those with less knowledge equally welcome.

**Children's Memorial Day** This is an event open to all who have lost babies and children, whether recently or in the past. It'll be held on Sunday 21 July. Let us know if you're interested in attending.

## The Friends of Sun Rising

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**The Friends' AGM** this year will be on Saturday 14 September, 2 – 5 pm, in Tysoe Village Hall – do put it in your diary! At

this annual gathering, the trustees present an update on fundraising and events, as well as plans and developments at Sun Rising more generally. All are welcome.

This year we're thrilled to be have the chance to offer a talk by **Steven Falk**, the extraordinary naturalist, photographer, artist and author of books such as 'Field Guide to the Bees of Great Britain and Ireland' and 'Warwickshire's Wildflowers'. For the talk, his focus will be the beautiful and ecologically invaluable bumblebee and other bees. The entrance fee is £10 or free to subscribing Friends.

**The Friends' Wall Calendar** Following the success of the 2018 wall calendar of photographs, we are aiming to do another for 2020. This will be an A3 double-sided calendar, sold for £10. We are now taking orders for delivery later in the year. In order to produce the calendar, we'd really like your photographs of Sun Rising. Please let us know if you have photos you want to submit: *deadline is the end of May!*

**Charity Status** The Friends of Sun Rising was originally set up as an unincorporated charitable organization with its own constitution. With a change in charity law, last year the Friends were able to apply to become a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission. In January 2019, we were accepted, and now have our own CC charity number: 1181570. It's a step that can only help with the long-term security of the natural burial ground and nature reserve.

## Notes

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**Busy Times** If you would rather visit Sun Rising on a quiet day, do give us a call and we can let you know if there's a funeral or something else going on. Alternatively, check the newsflash on the website home page: we'll do our best to flag up when the car park is likely to be full.

**Mailing List** If you'd like to receive this newsletter and other updates but are not on our mailing list, please get in touch. You are always welcome to print it or email it out to family and friends.