

Tysoe Parish Assembly, 4 June 2024

## The Friends of Sun Rising Natural Burial Ground and Nature Reserve

While the Parish Council and many assembled will know about Sun Rising as a natural burial ground and nature reserve, you may not know about the charity that runs alongside the burial company: The Friends of Sun Rising, FOSR.

This is a charity, registered with the Charity Commission, with a board of trustees. Currently we have 6 trustees, including 3 Tysoe residents and 1 from Oxhill.

The purpose of the charity is essentially to ensure the long-term security of the grounds, protecting it as a place of burial and memorial, and a nature reserve. In the long run, it will always be a sanctuary for wildlife.

How the charity works is in three ways. It is raising a **capital fund**: money that will pay for the care of the site when there is no longer an income from burials and memorials. It supports the **community** of families who have loved ones buried at Sun Rising, together with those who love the developing nature reserve. Further, it supports the burial company in its aim of creating a **place of peace** for burial, for memorial and for wildlife. Within all these, the Friends are also involved in making and maintaining connections with the local community and the wider community of naturalists, conservationists and those who love nature, including the Tysoe Wildlife Group.

Last year, these goals saw us arranging various different projects and events. In terms of events, we held nature walks; we hosted a day for the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust youth group; we shared a stall with Lockes at the Brailes Show; we had a fundraising dinner hosted by Nicola Rexton in Lower Tysoe; we had our biannual Roll of Remembrance, where the names of all laid to rest and remembered at Sun Rising are read aloud; we had a Christmas event in the Longhouse with a Memory Tree. Our AGM in September, held in Tysoe Village Hall, was followed by a talk on wildlife gardening by a fellow from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. Further, at all our events, we have a stall of products, including local honey, jams, jellies, chutneys, greetings cards, tea towels, perennial calendars, all sold in aid of The Friends. Our various volunteer days include tasks such as mulching young trees, creating hibernacula for amphibians, raking hay, cleaning plaques, planting bulbs and so on.

This coming year, along with regular volunteer days, we have a wide range of nature-oriented days. We've already had Winter Birds, Spring at Sun Rising and Spring Birdsong walks, and over the summer we'll have butterfly walks, flora surveys, events for Insect Week, a bat evening, and planting days. Our Open Day was on 1 June, and early in July we have a music event: four sax players coming to play a range of songs from around the world and through the last century, acknowledging the lives of all those buried at Sun Rising. Our AGM will again be in Tysoe Village Hall in September, followed by a talk on birds at the burial ground. The year will end with a Christmas event held in the Longhouse at Sun Rising.

We have about 350 subscribing members and an active mailing list of over 1500 recipients, an extensive website, Facebook and Instagram pages, keeping people up to date with all we offer.

### Contact and social media details:

Email: [friends@sunrising.co.uk](mailto:friends@sunrising.co.uk)  
Website: <https://sunrising.co.uk/friends-of-sun-rising/>  
Events page: <https://sunrising.co.uk/events/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sunrisingnaturalburial/>  
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sunrisingnaturalburial/>