

newcomers are always welcome. Details of all our events and meetings can be found on the website: <https://fairfieldassociation.org>

Join the Volunteers

Our volunteers regularly maintain and enhance the Nature Reserve. We meet at the Orchard Stump Circle on Wednesdays from 9.30am and the second Saturday of each month from 10.00am. If you would like to join us, contact Rebekah Mulligan: beckskay1@gmail.com. No previous experience is necessary; we are proud of our record of developing our volunteers' skills, including hedge-laying, scything, fruit tree management and fencing.





Support the Fairfield Association

Community Membership is free: join up if you want to get involved and hear from us about news and events. Visit fairfieldassociation.org/get-involved/community-membership

Fairfield Friends are members who make regular donations that provide our charity with a regular revenue stream. For details of how to become a Friend, make a donation, or even leave us part of your estate visit: fairfieldassociation.org/get-involved/fairfield-friends

Already a Fairfield Friend? Your annual payment may be due. Our preferred method is by setting up a Standing Order, but you can also pay by cheque or BACS transfer. For all payment details see fairfieldassociation.org

For more information

-  fairfieldassociation.org
-  info@fairfieldassociation.org
-  [@FairfieldAssoc](https://twitter.com/FairfieldAssoc)
-  [/FairfieldAssociation](https://facebook.com/FairfieldAssociation)

Please report anti-social behaviour in the Playground or Nature Reserve by phoning the Police on 101



Fairfield Association Newsletter Spring 2025

Registered Charity Number 1058030



The Fairfield Association is a Lancaster community-based environmental charity which funds and maintains Fairfield Nature Reserve, Fairfield Millennium Orchard, Fairfield Green Playground and Aldcliffe Road Triangle.

Fairfield Cycle Hub

The new Cycle Hangar is now in place next to the Fairfield Playground. It holds six bikes and the annual cost for a space is £25 - the same as a parking permit. Demand has far outstripped supply, so we intend to install a second hangar and provide facilities for shorter term stays, as well as a repair stand. Grant applications have already been submitted and we hope to hear back in April, when more details will be shared.



The FA's Chair of Trustees Andrew Brennard with County Councillor Gina Dowding, who helped provide some of the funding, at the new Cycle Hangar

Community events

Recent events have included the annual **Apple Day** in the Orchard on 5th October, which was a well-attended and fun afternoon for all ages.

Alongside local apples and wood-turning, there were children's games, a jazz band and of course, the Fairfield cake stall with tempting treats.

Our traditional **Carol Singing** around the streets of Fairfield took place on Christmas Eve. The weather was kind and there was a large group of singers. Particular thanks to all the children who helped us fill our buckets!

Our next event will be the annual **Easter Egg Hunt** in the Orchard on Easter Monday, 21st April from 2.00-4.00pm. Come along for tea and cakes, children's crafts, and of course, the Egg Hunt. We are looking for volunteers to help on the day: if you are able to help, please email Bethany on: fairfieldeasteregghunt@outlook.com

The **Fairfield Festival** returns on Saturday 24th May in the Playground from 12 noon - 8pm: join us for good food, good music and good vibes! We'll be hosting More Music's Walking Down Our Street Gamelan for children, and there will be a full program of musical entertainment for grown-ups, as well as a selection of food offerings and the usual well-stocked, good value bar!

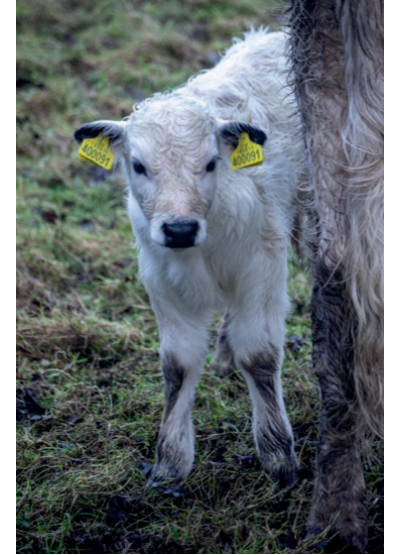
Also coming soon, on Friday 13th - Sunday 15th June is the **Wild Roots Nature Festival**, which will include guided walks around the nature reserve.

On Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd June we plan to repeat the successful **Open Yardens** event held in 2022. A number of 'yardens' (gardens and back yards) will be open throughout the weekend - last time there were over 20. The public can buy a £6 ticket to visit unlimited yardens over the weekend. There will also be tea yardens offering refreshments. Look out for local publicity or check the website near the time for more details, including how to get a ticket. All proceeds will go to the Fairfield Association.

You can also volunteer to open your back yard or garden on one or both days. The theme is 'gardening for wildlife': if your garden, however big or small, has a wildlife-friendly feature (e.g. pond, hedgehog homes, bird habitat, wildflower meadow, insect hotels) please get in touch with Jon Barry on jon_barry@hotmail.com or telephone 01524 844113.

Nature Reserve Update

This winter we have commissioned work to improve the security, accessibility and safety of the reserve: a contractor will shortly be on site replacing broken gates and posts and restoring worn surfaces on the paths and our tree surgeon has removed branches and felled trees with ash die-back. Fallen trees are left in situ: in Little Wood brash piled on the trunks provides shelter for birds and small mammals. We have a rota for feeding small birds such as chaffinch and reed-bunting through the winter and record sightings on the notice board and the blog. A barn owl has been seen over Big Meadow.



Volunteers continue to keep the reserve in good shape, laying hedges, mending fences etc. However, there is an increasing problem with dog poo. This is unpleasant for everybody, particularly our hands-on volunteers. Please would owners pick up after their dogs and help us to keep the reserve a safe and pleasant place.

Fairfield Calendar

We will be producing a calendar again next year as a fund-raiser and a year-long celebration of the Fairfield green spaces. Please support us by sending in your photos (we need landscape format 300 dpi., around 3507x2480 pixels) to: grace@fairfieldassociation.org

Fairfield Association Meetings

The next Fairfield Association meeting will take place in the Tite and Locke at 7.30pm on Tuesday 22nd April. These monthly meetings are open to all and