



Fairfield Association Newsletter November 2018

The Fairfield Association is Lancaster's community-based environmental charity which funds and maintains Fairfield Nature Reserve, the Millennium Orchard, Fairfield Green playground at the end of Sibsey Street, and the Triangle on Aldcliffe Road. For news on projects and events, see our on-site noticeboards or visit:

www.fairfieldassociation.org Fairfield Association Facebook page or Twitter @FairfieldAssoc

Season's Greetings from Fairfield!

New Xmas cards & calendar celebrate the splendour of Lancaster's very own nature reserve



On the look-out for Lancaster-themed Xmas cards or gifts? Then look no further! The Fairfield 2019 calendar is oozing with sumptuous photographs of our nature reserve's lovely landscape and fabulous flora and fauna. And thanks to some well-timed snowfall last winter, we have produced a brand new set of Christmas cards – featuring festive snowy scenes in and around Fairfield. What better way to let family and friends know what a beautiful area we live in?

Thank you to all the photographers who submitted so many wonderful pictures this year. Choosing the best was very hard. If yours didn't make it into the calendar or cards this time, do not despair! With your permission, your photos may be put to good use in the future.

You can buy the 2019 calendar from the **Green Fair, Saturday 24th November, 10am-4pm at the Friends' Meeting House** - cost £8. Also on sale:

- Pack of six BRAND NEW festive cards (£4)
- Pack of six notelets depicting the changing seasons of the nature reserve (£4)
- Cakes & Bakes recipe book with over 50 recipes served up by our Fairfield bakers (£5).

As the calendar can sell out quickly, to avoid disappointment, please order your copy/copies in advance via Carole.

Email: carole.martin56@hotmail.co.uk

or phone **01524 65994**. You can collect your order from the Green Fair, or we will arrange collection or delivery. Cards and Recipe books can also be ordered via Carole.

Diary Dates

Green Fair, at the Friends Meeting House

Saturday 24th November 10am-4pm

New Fairfield calendars and cards available on our stall.

Carol Singing

Xmas Eve – Monday 24th December

Meet 5pm on Christmas Eve outside Edenbreck Farm Cottage at the end of Sunnyside Lane by the allotments. Carol sheets are provided but wrap up warm and bring a torch for reading. This event has been run for twenty years by carolling stalwart Stephen Hoyland who no longer lives in the area and who would like to hand the baton on to someone musical who does. The only requirements are to be able to bring the song sheets and buckets on Christmas Eve – the Association takes care of publicity. Please email hilarydee57@gmail.com, if you think you can take it on.

Birdwatching walk with Dan Heywood

Saturday 26th January 9am

Meet at the end of Sunnyside Lane

Swimathon at Lancaster University

Saturday 30th March

The Rotary Club of Lancaster Loyne is organising a Swimathon at Lancaster University Sports Centre on 30th March 2019. Last year this was a great fund-raising event which provided money to replace the small climbing net in the play area and to buy many of the trees which were planted around Pony Wood. If you would like to take part, please contact Hilary Short at hilarydee57@gmail.com

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Pony Wood footpath update

The new footpath around Pony Wood will be created over the winter months. Recent grants from the Lancaster University Community Benefits Fund and the Garfield Weston Foundation have enabled us to buy benches and planned signage. Improvements to existing footpaths will begin in November when our contractor is free to start work. Apologies for the many delays!

Read all about it

Hilary and Mick Short have written an article about the history of the Fairfield Association for the local journal *Contrebis*. It is available from the left-hand menu on the home page of Fairfield Association website.

Fun Day Success

Thank you to everyone who made this year's Fairfield Fun Day such a success. A qualified thanks to Gareth Southgate for helping England get so far in the World Cup, which meant we were a bit quieter than usual! The event raised £938 and we extend a special thank you to those who donated their time or raffle prizes (including local businesses John Cardiff, Quay's Chippy and the Toll House Inn). The day proved once again that the sun always shines on Fairfield when it really matters.

Nature Reserve update

With winter approaching, the first snipe have arrived and we've spotted a group of linnets along the Long Pads. The barley crop has been taken in and the wildflower margins which were so colourful and provided food for bees this summer have been mown.

The young male White Park cattle have been sold leaving a herd of 13. The herd will graze the fields through winter but also have our lovely wildflower-rich hay. This year we used a different contractor for cutting and baling: producing bigger bales (cheaper and using less plastic). However, we had to stay out of the meadow when the equipment was there and could not involve volunteers in the haymaking.

Work continues to keep the ponds clear, now filling up after the summer drought. Recently, we were loaned a digger to divert water into the secluded Willow Pond & destroy the drains that prevented it from holding water.

The cattle, an important component in the management of the reserve, are a popular sight, especially when there are calves. The little ones can sometimes look frail or get themselves stuck so we have phone numbers on notice boards and main gates. Someone who knows what to do can be on hand very quickly. **For issues relating to the cattle, please contact Fraser Granell-Watson 07720 598 492 or Robin Loxam 01524 60646** or call at Edenbreck Farm Cottage by the bollards at the end of Sunnyside Lane.

Please could wildlife watchers put sightings on the blog? We haven't had a report of a hare since May. Look out for roe deer (there are 3 around) and a fox, as well as winter migrants such as fieldfare and redwing.

Talks at the Storey

Paul Guppy of Gladly Solemn Sound choir gave a very entertaining talk at The Storey on West Gallery music – the church music that the people who worked these fields probably heard or even contributed to. This was suggested by one of our members so if you have an idea please contact Sue at sue@nieduszynski.org

Education

Visits from Dallas Road and Ryelands primary schools were blessed with beautiful sunny days. One day the children spotted at least six different types of butterfly! We would very much like to see other schools and community groups using our facilities. All our sessions are free and at no cost to the school. If you have contact with other groups, please spread the word and direct them to the learning zone pages of our website. Our email is education@fairfieldassociation.org

A big thank you to Tony Finn's colleagues June Moriarty & Trisha Robinson for their enthusiasm and commitment to our education activities.

Dementia Friends

The last Dementia Friends awareness session of the year will be in the Friends Meeting House, 7pm-8.30 on Tuesday 27th November. For free sign up, phone Mick Short 01524 63890 or email m.short@lancaster.ac.uk Next year, Fairfield Orchard and the Aldcliffe Road Triangle will be venues for social and therapeutic activities for those with memory concerns. More news about this in later newsletters.

Playground

The recent broken see-saw will be fixed in the coming weeks. The parking bays adjacent to the electricity substation are for users of the playground. So if anyone could let us know who owns **the Ford Van registration G493 KRM** we would be grateful. It will mean we can negotiate a removal without incurring the cost of scrapping an abandoned vehicle. Thanks to playground users who continue to alert us to problems when they find them. Please email brennand@gmail.com

Become a volunteer in the Nature Reserve

The Nature Reserve is largely maintained by volunteers. During the winter a great deal of work needs doing. We look after over 4km of hedges and this year we'll be planting a considerable stretch of hedging after the contractors complete the new Pony Wood path. So we are always on the look-out for new volunteers to help keep this lovely place in good health. And it's good for volunteers' health too! Active work in convivial company with no experience necessary. Use it for Duke of Edinburgh or John Muir Trust awards.

Our **monthly** work group meets on the 2nd **Saturday of each month from 10am-1pm** with a break for cake in the middle. Our **Wednesday Work Group** meets weekly at **9.30** on Wed mornings (bring your own refreshment for this one). Groups meet at the **Storage Building** down the track from Sunnyside Lane. Wear weatherproof clothes and boots as we work in all weathers. Some contribute in their own time as well as or instead of in group sessions. If you'd like to be added to the volunteers' email list or want to know more, then phone **Volunteer Organiser** Ian Procter, on 07811 970595 or email: sysaf123@gmail.com

Membership

If you enjoy using our nature reserve, play park etc, please consider becoming a member of the Fairfield Association. There are two types of membership: **Community Membership** is free and in perpetuity. Tell us if and how you can help, whether it's baking a cake or delivering newsletters. The more members we have the stronger our applications for grants etc!

Friends of the Fairfield Association make *regular donations* usually annually, by standing order or cheque. We have also produced a leaflet on how to leave a bequest to us. For more info, see our webpage or contact Geoff Oliver, Fairfield Friends Coordinator, 12 Oaklands Court, Aldcliffe, Lancaster, LA1 5AT or email: fairfieldfriends@fairfieldassociation.org

Further details of both types of membership can be found on our website in the "Supporting Us" page.

Please report anti-social behaviour in the play area/nature reserve by phoning Hilary Short on 01524 63890 or leave a voice message for the community police officer: Cath Elliott on 01524 596649