

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

THE PROSPECTS  
FOUNDATION

**PROSPECTS**  
Hyndburn's Community-Owned  
Environmental Charity





# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## ABOUT US

The PROSPECTS Foundation is an environmental charity, established in 1998 by local people living in Hyndburn. It aims to be the key organisation in Hyndburn for environmental action and uses its collective knowledge, skills and experience to help to improve the quality of life for all Hyndburn communities. It achieves its aims by working in innovative ways with local communities and with a diverse range of organisations for environmental, social and economic benefits.

We focus our work on 6 Themes of Sustainability, which means that our actions do not deplete the environment in such a way as to reduce the capacity of people to live well in the future. Our themes take account of both the local and global environment and positively contribute to the reduction of climate change:

BIODIVERSITY – protecting and enhancing local wildlife and plant life

ENERGY – promoting energy conservation and the use of renewables

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT – encouraging cycling, walking and the greater use of public transport

WASTE & RECYCLING – reducing, reusing and recycling waste

LOCAL FOOD – encouraging the growing of local, organic and healthy food

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS – raising awareness of environmental issues



We have a set of values which guide the way we work and direct the work we do:

- ✓ We value our environment, both local and global and respect its uniqueness and fragility
- ✓ We are committed to the principle of environmental sustainability
- ✓ We act as a catalyst for positive environmental change
- ✓ We believe in working collaboratively for our environment
- ✓ We believe that local people acting in their own right or collectively can reduce their carbon footprint by changing their behaviour and practices
- ✓ We are a people based organisation which is rooted in local communities
- ✓ We seek to work for the benefit of all communities both present and future
- ✓ We believe everyone has a positive contribution to make and we are committed to equality of opportunity for all
- ✓ We believe that a green environment and active participation directly contributes to positive mental health and wellbeing
- ✓ We work ethically

# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In this report we highlight the brilliant work that the Foundation, its staff and trustees and the multitude of community organisations and volunteers have all carried out over the last year. All are to be congratulated on yet another year of meaningful – in some cases life-changing – action.

One thing we tend not to say enough about though is PROSPECTS' support for community businesses and social enterprise. We should say more because the value and importance of these businesses cannot be exaggerated. They are a very resource-effective way in which PROSPECTS furthers its aims and achieves practical action.

The Foundation supports three community businesses in Hyndburn by participation at board level, management assistance, helping to access funding and volunteer time.

**Hyndburn Used Furniture Store (HUFS)** was not set up by PROSPECTS but is currently supported by us. HUFS is a registered charity that provides the bulky household waste collections for Hyndburn and Rossendale Borough Councils, as well as the Care and Urgent Needs Support Service to Lancashire County Council. The latter provides economical household appliances and furniture at nil cost to families experiencing hardship and who are referred by the County Council. Many of the items are recovered and reconditioned from the collections or are bought in second hand. Collected goods which cannot be reused are deconstructed and the materials sent for recycling. HUFS currently employs six people and provides opportunities for volunteers and people who otherwise experience difficulty in the employment market. It is the only significant community sector recycling project in Hyndburn and is one of only eight such organisations across the county. Through support at board level, assistance with management and sourcing funding, PROSPECTS is able to achieve levels of recycling and diversion from landfill in Hyndburn that otherwise would simply not occur. HUFS services to its local authority clients are provided at very competitive prices and this is achieved through a combination of charity status (with no shareholder outgoings), paying fair wages, reliance to some extent on volunteers and low premises costs. In terms of the use of the Foundation's resources, it is hard to see how PROSPECTS could achieve anything like this level of activity without HUFS or something very similar.

The **One Planet shop** on Abbey Street in Accrington was started up by PROSPECTS working with a group of committed individuals and has now been open for five years. But it is not in any sense owned by PROSPECTS. It is an independent community co-op (industrial and provident society) which is owned by its membership of which there are now over 140, each with one vote at the AGM regardless of share value. The shop, which employs two people, is currently running an outreach project with local schools to promote awareness of fair-trade, environmental and ethical purchasing. I am not aware of any other retail outlet in Hyndburn that is expressly ethical in its intentions. The fact that the shop has thrived with only small amounts of extra financial input (grants and loans) is a testament to the hard work and determination of its staff, board and members and the loyalty of its customers. PROSPECTS, by being instigator and an ongoing member, has been instrumental in spreading the word about ethical retailing and the shop brightens the face of Abbey Street at a particularly difficult time for Accrington town centre.

**Woody** is another community enterprise instigated by PROSPECTS. It is a community interest company, which means that its assets remain vested in the community and cannot ever be claimed by its directors. It is set up to win contracts for woodland management work and to sell woodland products. It has very low costs due to the amount of time donated by its volunteer labour force, having no premises and minimal equipment. Its aims are to promote and achieve ecologically sound woodland management

# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

and to add value by converting thinnings to useful products for sale - benches, picnic tables, waymarker posts, bird nestboxes and coppice products such as hedge laying stakes, gardening products and dead hedging, as well as firewood. Although Woody does not yet employ anyone, accredited training has been provided for twelve local people in woodland management skills and machinery use. Through the combination of income from contracts and sales and its low costs, the business is able to offer woodland owners an extremely cost effective and high quality woodland management service as well as keeping money and materials circulating in the local economy. By starting up this cost efficient enterprise PROSPECTS furthers biodiversity, enables budgets to go further, multiplies the value of volunteer effort and, in a small way, stimulates the local economy.

So these three ventures produce environmental, social and economic benefit for Hyndburn and beyond in the form of waste recycling and diversion from landfill, habitat enhancement and woodland management, ethical trading and education in ethical retailing issues, fair-wage employment (including opportunities for disadvantaged people), community engagement, volunteering opportunities, training, cost effective public services and supporting the local economy. Through its support, PROSPECTS achieves practical action that would not otherwise occur if we tried to do everything ourselves.

In addition to all this of course, it has been another very good year for PROSPECTS. Our ongoing presence at the PROSPECTS Environment Centre (PEC) continues to raise the profile of the environment and during the year we gained access to new accommodation in Oak Hill Park for awareness activities and a tool store. Furthermore, our Environmental Awareness project received new funding for the next phase of the project. Demand for Windfall grants is unabated which is very encouraging. We have recently received good funding news for nature conservation and habitat work in Accrington and Clayton-le-Moors and for community food growing sites across the borough.

PROSPECTS engages with growing numbers of people and groups from all of Hyndburn's communities - without discrimination or favour. If you are aware of a community supported good idea for the environment where you live or, for that matter, anywhere in the borough, I would encourage you to get in touch with us. Our passion is to create as many opportunities as we can for people to get involved in the environment.

Phil Barwood MBE  
Chairman



# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

- ✓ Our Chairman, Phil Barwood, received an MBE for his services to the environment and community
- ✓ Set up a new training room in Oakhill Park, Accrington, where we can run training courses and environmental activities
- ✓ 24 new local projects received Windfall funding
- ✓ A new Windfall logo was developed
- ✓ Secured almost £90,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to increase community participation and awareness at Woodnook Vale and Peel Park and the Coppice and to help with their designation as official Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)
- ✓ The new 'Green Team' of volunteers carried out tasks on 21 different sites across the Borough including tree planting, coppicing, footpath work and deadhedging
- ✓ Worked with CTC, the national cycling charity (now re-branded as Cycling UK) and ran Bike Ride Leaders and Cycle Maintenance classes and supported the establishment of the Hyndburn CTC
- ✓ Set up a new Hobby, Arts and Crafts group which utilizes recycled/reclaimed materials
- ✓ Became an approved AQA training Centre and ran a number of different AQA courses including Making Organic Bath & Beauty Products, Growing Herbs and Wildlife Gardening
- ✓ Set up a 'library' of Hyndburn walks and cycle rides, available to download from our website
- ✓ Continued to offer a range of volunteer opportunities and ran a series of training courses in First Aid, Health & Safety, Risk Assessment and Food Safety to upskill and improve confidence of volunteers
- ✓ Ran a pilot Food Poverty project
- ✓ Worked with 20 schools throughout the Borough
- ✓ Ran an ongoing programme of activities including food growing, conservation work, crafts, events, talks, demonstrations and courses, open to all
- ✓ Worked with over 450 different volunteers to whom we are indebted. This equates to 6,009 volunteer hours which are valued at £83,525!

# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## HOW WE WORK

We deliver our outcomes through a number of funded projects and initiatives focusing on our 6 Themes of Sustainability:

### BIODIVERSITY

The **Nature Conservation in Hyndburn project**, funded by the Windfall Fund, has worked across the whole Borough carrying out practical conservation tasks with volunteers from the Monday Conservation Group and the Green Team. The project Steering Group, looking to the future and working with Hyndburn Borough Council, decided to pursue the proposed Local Nature Reserve designation of Woodnook Vale and Peel Park & the Coppice. This idea has been progressed and has led to a successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid with a new project to start next year.

Woody (Hyndburn) CIC has again had an active year. Woody is Hyndburn's woodland management social enterprise and was set up as a Community Interest Company in March 2012. It is run entirely by volunteers and as well as habitat improvement work it also produces locally made wood products.

### ENERGY

**The Windfall Fund** is a grant for community projects in Hyndburn from the proceeds of the Oswaldtwistle Moor wind farm. Working in partnership with EnergieKontor we manage the Fund which cuts across all sustainability themes and since 2012, when the turbines became operational, we have awarded 66 grants to 45 different groups totaling £314,582.

### WASTE AND RECYCLING

**Hyndburn Used Furniture Store (HUFS)** is a furniture re-use charity based in the Springhill ward of Accrington. Set up in 2004 it collects bulky household waste which it recovers, reconditions, re-uses or recycles and is the Lancashire County Council's Care and Urgent Needs Support Scheme for Hyndburn and Rossendale Borough Councils. It also runs a cardboard shredding project producing fibre bedding for horses and packaging.

### LOCAL FOOD

**Cultivate**, funded by Lancashire County Council, is a community food growing project with the following aims: to deliver training to individuals to develop new skills in food growing and nutritional cooking; to provide volunteering opportunities; to increase physical activity and increase consumption of healthy fruit and veg; and to support improved mental health issues by increasing social interaction and reducing the impact of social isolation. We also ran a pilot Food Poverty project.

### ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

**The Environmental Awareness project** aims to promote the work of PROSPECTS and raise awareness and understanding of environmental issues amongst the communities in Hyndburn via newspaper coverage, radio interviews, Facebook and through the PROSPECTS Environment Centre itself. We also offer a range of opportunities for volunteers and encourage them to develop their own skills through practical experience and tailored training. Activities have contributed to most of our themes for example, walking and cycling events contribute towards Sustainable Transport; the regular Make It And Mend It and Hobby Arts and Crafts groups fit under the Waste & Recycling theme as they use reclaimed and donated materials; nature themed walks and talks on bees promote improving Biodiversity; and the Herbs for Health course contributed to Local Food.

**One Planet (Accrington) Ltd** is a co-operative retail shop selling local, ethical, Fairtrade and organic products and also runs an outreach programme with schools highlighting the importance of buying ethically and with the environment in mind.



# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## THE WINDFALL FUND

Well, it has been another busy year for the Windfall Fund. Four more application rounds, school visits to the wind farm, project visits by EnergieKontor, designing a new logo and of course, writing the Windfall Annual Report.

Altogether 24 projects received funding – 8 Mini Projects (up to £250), 7 Small Projects (£250 to £2,000) and 9 Large Projects (above £2,000) covering all of PROSPECTS 6 Themes of Sustainability.

The projects ranged from a free standing solar canopy attached to Belthorn Academy Primary School, new toilets using recycled rainwater at Burnley Road Bowling Club, habitat improvements at Foxhill Bank, the Borough's only recognised Local Nature Reserve, the development of a memorial garden in the school playground at Mount Carmel R C High School for a pupil who sadly passed away, the development of a local food growing area at Piggy Park in Rishton and improvements to the footpath network to link up Oswaldtwistle with Jackhouse Nature Reserve. In the period covered by this Annual Report £92,898 has been given as grants.

Here is a collection of photos showing some of the inspiring projects we have funded.



# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE

A lot of the work we carry out is with young people, often through schools but also with Scout groups, nurseries and other community organisations such as Growing Wild and Hyndburn Homes. Through work via St Christopher's Eco-Cluster Group, the Cultivate project, the Nature Conservation in Hyndburn project and the Windfall Fund we have worked with 20 schools, over 80 community groups and involved over 2,000 children.

This is what we have achieved:





# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE

Encouraging and inspiring young people about the environment can lead to a life-long love of the outdoors and everything green. Our projects involve all aspects of environmental sustainability from looking at recycling, composting and reusing waste products to food growing, practical nature conservation and looking at where the clothes we buy come from.





# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## IMPROVING WELL-BEING

People with all abilities and from all walks of life take part in our activities. Through our Environmental Awareness project, the Nature Conservation in Hyndburn Project and Cultivate we have helped people improve their mental health and wellbeing. Just by being outside or part of a group people have been stimulated and interested, spirits have been lifted and the environment has benefited too.





# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## IMPROVING WELL-BEING

The Environmental Awareness project has had an exciting year and run a very diverse range of activities including: a series of Nature and Photography walks around Hyndburn, taking in places such as Priestley Clough (ancient woodland), Bullough Park, Clayton Forest Park, Green Haworth and Jackhouse Nature Reserves whilst introducing people to birdsong, wildflowers and local history; an accredited training course on 'Investigating Herbal Remedies for Illnesses'; a talk on Bees and Beekeeping; cycle maintenance and bike ride leader courses; and various hobby and craft sessions using recycled materials. All these activities contribute to health and wellbeing and aim to make people feel good about themselves. We now offer AQA Unit Qualifications in all manner of subjects and for some this is starting point on the road to bigger and better things.



The Windfall Fund and the Cultivate project have also worked with a number of groups working with people with mental health and/or addiction issues including Sandy Lane Gardening Group, Inward House (now Acorn Recovery), Red Rose Recovery and the One Planet Planters. Accrington Women's Centre and St James House Acorn Recovery both won awards in the Britain in Bloom 'It's Your Neighbourhood Awards' for work in their gardens. This also gave people the opportunity to socialise, learn new skills and focus on a therapeutic activity. Inspiring work has been undertaken and here are some of the results:



# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

All of our work, in some way or another, supports communities, either in geographical terms or where people come together with a common interest. Two great examples of this involve our work through the Cultivate project with Growing Wild in Baxenden and Harrington Street Community Garden in Clayton-Le-Moors. Growing Wild is a small community group that has gone from strength to strength and with our support has flourished into an active and innovative project. The group has worked tirelessly to improve an old allotment site in Baxenden and now works alongside other organisations including Alternative Futures and Bootstrap to help achieve its aims. As well as community food growing it delivers family Forest School sessions and also carries out practical conservation tasks on the site such as planting a fruity hedgerow, balsam bashing, footpath creation and tree planting.



The Cultivate project has been working with Harrington Street Community Garden for a number of years. Initially residents and volunteers from Red Rose Recovery developed an old play area into a community food growing area. This has made a huge difference to an established community in an area where many of the houses don't have gardens. A similar project is also just getting under way at Piggy Park in Rishton.



Another way in which we work with different communities is by sharing skills and expertise. In these examples the One Planet Planters, a group of people with different needs who meet fortnightly to carry out gardening activities have



used their time to help other groups make progress with their own projects. The One Planet Planters helped the 1<sup>st</sup> St Oswaldtwistle Scout Group to clear an allotment plot for which they had received Windfall funding to get it in a suitable condition for food growing. They also helped people with physical disabilities prepare their sites for the winter. The Cultivate project as a whole constantly works with different communities, sometimes planting planters with herbs in a particular neighbourhood as they did in the Woodnook area of Accrington or working, for example, with the Asian Men's community helping with Grow Cook and Eat sessions.



# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

Food Poverty is currently high on the agenda and we were given the opportunity to run a short five month pilot project to work with people experiencing food poverty. The aim was to identify the potential for people to 'grow their own' and then for us to help with site development and deliver training and support to ultimately help communities in need. Projects included:

- support for a grower who supplies fresh food to the kitchen at Maundy Relief
- young Carers learning how to grow fresh fruit, herbs and veg at a community garden and Meadoway allotment
- a youth group linked to Rhyddings Methodist Church grew food in the church grounds to supply salads and veg to their food bank
- development of a community allotment with Red Rose recovery volunteers at Meadoway with raised beds for vegetables and fruit such as blueberries and strawberries which will be used to cook soups and make smoothies to distribute to those experiencing food poverty
- training in organic food growing for the volunteers at Community Solutions North West who manage the allotments and polytunnel to provide food for their food bank
- planting blueberries and other fruit at Growing Wild so they can donate nutritious food to Maundy food kitchen

The PROSPECTS Foundation continues to support PROSPECTS Panels based in towns throughout Hyndburn. Each Panel is a community group made up of local residents, or those with an interest in a particular area and membership is open to anyone. The panels work to develop locally owned projects which contribute to environmental sustainability. These are examples of what they have been up to recently:

The Rishton Panel took part in the national 'Clean for the Queen' campaign. They collected 9 sacks of rubbish from a stretch of the Leeds Liverpool Canal and along with thirty pupils from Norden High School collected over 20 sacks of litter from the streets around the school. Another local initiative saw the community coming together to clean the canal and with help from the Canal and River Trust's cleaning barge an unsightly accumulation of debris was cleared from the water.



The Rishton community also stepped in to try and save the town's floral planters from the proposed Council cuts and have pledged to maintain them for a trial period. The food growing area at Rishton train station is still going strong and is proving to be an interesting learning experience for those cultivating the raised beds! The emergence of Piggy Park Community Garden Association, with the aim of transforming an old disused playground into a community food growing resource, has been enabled by the PROSPECTS Foundation taking on the lease from Hyndburn Borough Council. The Association has already been successful in securing grant funding from a variety of sources and it really is a case of watch this space!

# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

Meanwhile, Huncoat Forum has continued to function robustly with regular community volunteering events. The community has recently been improving the local biodiversity whilst working on Huncoat in Bloom including the Peace Garden and improving the surrounds of Huncoat Railway Station. The volunteers have also improved the surface and drainage on Cleggs Lane, a local public footpath and carried out work on the Huncoat Trail. In addition the Forum has also lent support to caretaking Spout House Woodlands, Enfield Road local nature reserve and neighbourhood litter picking.



Baxenden Community Forum, despite being dogged by bad weather, have also had a busy year. Their activities have included Balsam bashing in Hollins Wood and Woodnook Vale, securing funding to replace a length of hedgerow and carry out woodland management in Hollins Wood with the help of Lancashire Wildlife Trust, The PROSPECTS Foundation and Woody. The Forum also led three community walks - in August looking in particular at the local area, in September the annual bat walk and in October a fungi foray in Woodnook Vale. Again, due to the cuts in Council budgets the Forum took over the planting and maintenance of the planters on the recreation ground near Hollins School using plants donated by a local nursery. Volunteers also carried out work on the rose garden at Haworth Park.

Walking and cycling has been the order of the day in Great Harwood. The Great Harwood PROSPECTS Panel introduced Nature and Photography walks from April to October. This encouraged local people to get more in touch with nature and an ARROD Walkers Facebook page has now been set up and some walkers have gone on to enjoy the monthly East Lancashire Coach Rambles on a Sunday. Cycle maintenance and local cycle rides were also introduced by the Panel and they were such a success that they have been further developed by The PROSPECTS Foundation itself and have been delivered for the benefit of the whole of Hyndburn. The Panel has also been involved in the campaign to open the Martholme Viaduct on the old Great Harwood loop railway track. Both web-based and hard copy petitions were started and the Martholme Viaduct facebook page was launched. As a result a new group 'Martholme Greenway' has been formed by supporters with interests in cycling, walking, the environment and railway and mining history which will take the campaign forward. Thousands of bulbs were planted in the autumn at the entrances to Great Harwood town and the Panel is maintaining two of the planters. Sadly, the Panel is no longer meeting as new committee members are needed to run the group, however, new ideas for environmental projects in the town are always being sought.



# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT

Improving the environment around us is crucial for the future of wildlife but also provides a natural backdrop which improves the quality of our lives. Whether we are actively involved or not in the conservation and enhancement of the environment it is enjoyed by many as a peaceful landscape, somewhere to have an adventure or somewhere to take a breath or walk the dog. The Nature Conservation in Hyndburn project has lead the way in carrying out environmental improvements across the Borough. The Monday Conservation group and the Green Team worked on 21 different sites and carried out 67 practical work days. The project worked on sites for Hyndburn Borough Council, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Lancashire County Council, St Mary's Primary School Clayton and The Beeches SureStart Centre amongst others. The Project Officer also carried out activities for Eco Clubs at St John's Primary School Baxenden, All Saints Primary School Clayton, St Mary's Primary School Oswaldtwistle and St James' Primary School Altham. In total 203 volunteers were involved in practical conservation work to improve the environment.

This is what they did:



# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT

Another aspect of our habitat improvement work is through our close links with the woodland management social enterprise that PROSPECTS helped to set up in March 2012. Woody (Hyndburn) CIC, is a Community Interest Company run by volunteers and they carry out work on woodland sites across Hyndburn nearly every Friday throughout the year. As a company, Woody tenders for woodland management contracts. Two such contracts this year were for management works at the Hyndburn Borough Council owned sites at Clayton Forest Park (also known as Wilson's) and off Royds Street in Woodnook Vale in Accrington.

Both of these contracts were for the thinning of woodlands planted during the 1980s and '90s under the council's Urban Forestry Programme. The work at Clayton involved regenerating a 2 hectare Hazel coppice as well as installing 10 benches, 4 picnic tables and 75 bird boxes. At Royds Street the work primarily involved thinning 3.5 hectares of broadleaf trees.

As a social enterprise, Woody has social objectives. These include: promoting a sustainable woodland economy; adding value to woodlands through the promotion and protection of biodiversity; managing, protecting and enhancing the amenity value of woodlands in Hyndburn for healthy lifestyles; and working with volunteers, the community and partner agencies to protect enhance and create sustainably managed woodlands. Below are a few photos showing some of the work:





# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## LIVING SUSTAINABLY

Living sustainably is something we do for future generations by trying not to deplete the earth's resources. Growing and sourcing products locally, reducing, reusing and recycling waste and supporting natural ecosystems are our way of promoting a positive approach to ethical living. With this in mind as well as the thinning of existing woodlands Woody was also set up to help create a local woodland economy by making products from the thinning arisings. Through the purchase of two portable sawmills this now means the volunteers can make bespoke products such as benches, picnic benches, waymarkers, bird boxes, Larch cladding, wood stores and also sawn timber for use in structures. As well as sawn material Woody also produces natural products such as hedging stakes, bean poles and yurt poles. Amazingly, all of this work is carried out by volunteers. To help repay the volunteers efforts Woody pays towards chainsaw training and so far 12 volunteers now have chainsaw certificates.



The One Planet shop in Accrington is another social enterprise linked to PROSPECTS. It is a community owned co-operative with 144 members that sells ethical, Fairtrade, sustainable, organic and local produce. One Planet was set up with PROSPECTS support in May 2010 and the shop is now a well-established retail shop on Abbey Street in Accrington. Living sustainably is something we try to promote as much as possible and encouraging people to shop with ethical values in mind is one way of doing this. PROSPECTS itself promoted Fairtrade Fortnight through a window display and supports the One Planet Education Liaison Support Officer to deliver sustainability workshops in local schools.

Recycling and reusing goods that people no longer want is crucial to sustainable living and Hyndburn Used Furniture Store (HUFS) is a great example of how this can be achieved with environmental, social and economic benefits. It provides the bulky household waste collections for two Borough Councils and the Care and Urgent Needs Support Service for Lancashire County Council. Many of the items are recovered and reconditioned and those that cannot be reused are deconstructed and the materials sent for recycling. HUFS is also able to provide opportunities for volunteers and people who otherwise experience difficulty gaining employment. Although not set up by PROSPECTS it is currently supported by the Foundation at board level. Recently HUFS has also set up a recycled cardboard shredding



operation to be able to sell fibre bedding for horses or material which can be used for packaging to help make the enterprise self-sustaining.



# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

During the year we became an approved AQA training centre and through the Environmental Awareness project we have already awarded 59 Unit Achievement Award certificates to attendees and written other courses, such as a Level 1 Unit on cycle maintenance. The courses have been varied and popular and have included subjects such as Wildlife Gardening, Growing Herbs, Using a Fret Saw, Harvesting Willow, Making a Willow Product and Using Herbs for Health & Nutrition. The Awards are usually at Entry Level or Level 1 but very often this can be a massive step for someone building up their skills and confidence and is the first step to future employment.

Here are some of our courses:





# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## OUR SUPPORTERS

These are the groups, communities and partners we have worked with during 2015/2016 and who have helped us achieve our aims:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Accrington Academy                      | Growing Wild                              |
| Accrington Blind Society                | Hippings Methodist School                 |
| Accrington and Rossendale College       | Hollins Technology College                |
| Accrington Women's Centre               | Hope Church                               |
| Adelaide House/The Bridge               | Huncoat Community Forum                   |
| All Saints Primary School               | Huncoat Ladies Group                      |
| Alternative Futures Group               | Huncoat Moot                              |
| Altham Primary School                   | Hyndburn Borough Council                  |
| Asian Men's Group                       | Hyndburn Homes                            |
| Baxenden Community Forum                | Hyndburn & Ribble Valley CVS              |
| Belthorn Academy                        | Hyndburn Resource Centre                  |
| Belthorn Village Committee              | Hyndburn Tree Wardens                     |
| Bootstrap Enterprises                   | Hyndburn Used Furniture Store             |
| Broadfield Specialist School            | Incredible Edibles Accrington             |
| Burnley Road Bowling Club               | Inspire                                   |
| Carers Link                             | Inward House (now Acorn Recovery)         |
| Churchfield House Ltd                   | Kemple View                               |
| Clayton with Altham PROSPECTS Panel     | Lancashire County Council                 |
| Clean & Green Recovery                  | Lancashire Wildlife Trust                 |
| Community Restart                       | Lancashire Women's Centres                |
| Community Solutions North West          | Meadoway Allotment                        |
| Copperhouse Children's Centre           | Mercer House                              |
| Creative Support                        | Moor End Primary School                   |
| Cycling UK                              | Mount Carmel High School                  |
| Disability First                        | Network Rail                              |
| East Lancashire Bee Keeping Association | Newground C.I.C.                          |
| Ernest Street Baptist Chapel            | NCS Young People's Group                  |
| Friends of Jackhouse Nature Reserve     | One Planet (Accrington) Ltd               |
| Friends of St Christopher's             | One Planet Planters                       |
| Friends of White Ash School             | 1 <sup>st</sup> Oswaldtwistle Scout Group |
| Go Velo                                 | Pathways Northwest                        |
| Great Harwood PROSPECTS Panel           | Piggy Park Community Garden Association   |

# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## OUR SUPPORTERS

Place First Housing

Red Rose Recovery

Rishton Methodist School

Rishton PROSPECTS Panel

Sandy Lane Gardening Group

St Anne's & St Joseph's Primary School

St Bartholomew's Church Great Harwood

St Christopher's School

St James' Primary School

St John's Primary School

St Mary's Primary School Clayton-le-Moors

St Mary's PTA

St Mary's Primary School Oswaldtwistle

St Paul's Barnfield Scout Group

St Paul's Primary School

Stroke Association

Sure Start Hyndburn

The Art Garden

The Base

Woodcraft Creations

Woodnook Residents Community Association

Woody (Hyndburn) C.I.C.

Young Carers

Our thanks also go to our funders without whom the work would not take place:





# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## WHO WE ARE

### Trustees:

Phil Vincent-Barwood (Chairperson)  
Paul Gott (Vice-Chair) (Huncoat Community Forum)  
Nicholas Cort (Treasurer)  
William Matthews (Baxenden Community Forum)  
Stephen Hemingway (Individual Member)  
Paul Worswick (Clayton-le-Moors with Altham PROSPECTS Panel)  
Colin Cooper (Rishton PROSPECTS Panel)  
Catherine Holmes (Church PROSPECTS Panel)  
Margaret Worden (Individual Member)  
Neil Mooney (Individual Member)  
Councillor Wendy Dwyer (Hyndburn Borough Council)  
County Councillor Miles Parkinson (Lancashire County Council)

### Officers:

Mike Stapleford/Ian Plested (Charity Manager Job Share)  
Roger Plum (Nature Conservation Officer)  
Julie Livesey/Ian Hodgson (Community Food Growing Officers)  
Barbara Sharples (Activity Organiser)  
Alison Silver (Windfall Fund Co-ordinator)

The PROSPECTS Foundation is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee

Registered Charity Number: 1076541

Registered Company Number: 03686719

Bankers: Triodos Bank, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AS

Solicitors: Forbes Solicitors, Rutherford House, 4 Wellington Street, Blackburn, BB1 8DD

Auditors: KM Accountants, 4-6 Grimshaw Street, Burnley, Lancashire, BB11 2AZ

Investment Advisors: Wrigleys Solicitors, 19 Cookridge Street, Leeds, LS29 3AG

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Website: [www.prospectsfoundation.org.uk](http://www.prospectsfoundation.org.uk)

# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## OUR FINANCES

The following pages are extracted from our Annual accounts for 2014-2015

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2015

|   | Unrestricted<br>Funds | Restricted<br>Funds | Total Funds<br>2015 | Total Funds<br>2014 |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|   | £                     | £                   | £                   | £                   |
| <b>Incoming resources</b>                     |                       |                     |                     |                     |
| Incoming resources from generated funds       |                       |                     |                     |                     |
| Voluntary income                              | 2,080                 | 237,981             | 240,061             | 300,333             |
| Investment income                             | 1,051                 | 468                 | 1,519               | 1,628               |
| Other incoming resources                      | 2,780                 | 12,439              | 15,219              | 20,272              |
| Total incoming resources                      | 5,911                 | 250,888             | 256,799             | 322,233             |
| <br><b>Resources expended</b>                 |                       |                     |                     |                     |
| Charitable activities                         | 2,321                 | 239,250             | 241,571             | 340,726             |
| Governance costs                              | 255                   | 1,575               | 1,830               | 1,776               |
| Total resources expended                      | 2,576                 | 240,825             | 243,401             | 342,502             |
| <br>Net income/(expenditure) before transfers | 3,335                 | 10,063              | 13,398              | (20,269)            |
| <b>Transfers</b>                              |                       |                     |                     |                     |
| Gross transfers between funds                 | -                     | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| <br>Net movements in funds                    | 3,335                 | 10,063              | 13,398              | (20,269)            |
| <br><b>Reconciliation of funds</b>            |                       |                     |                     |                     |
| Total funds brought forward                   | 81,035                | 76,193              | 157,228             | 177,497             |
| Total funds carried forward                   | 84,370                | 86,256              | 170,626             | 157,228             |



# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

## OUR FINANCES

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2015

|   | 2015    |         | 2014    |         |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|   | £       | £       | £       | £       |
| <b>Fixed assets</b>                                       |         |         |         |         |
| Tangible assets   |         | 15,000  |         | 15,000  |
| Investments   |         | 25      |         | 25      |
|   |         | 15,025  |         | 15,025  |
| <br><b>Current assets</b>                                 |         |         |         |         |
| Cash at bank and in hand                                  | 161,215 |         | 145,439 |         |
| <br><b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b> | (5,614) |         | (3,236) |         |
| <br><b>Net current assets</b>                             |         | 155,601 |         | 142,203 |
| <br><b>Net assets</b>                                     |         | 170,626 |         | 157,228 |
| <br><b>The funds of the charity:</b>                      |         |         |         |         |
| <b>Restricted funds</b>                                   |         | 86,256  |         | 76,193  |
| <br><b>Unrestricted funds</b>                             |         |         |         |         |
| Unrestricted income funds                                 |         | 84,370  |         | 81,035  |
| <br><b>Total charity funds</b>                            |         | 170,626 |         | 157,228 |

For the financial year ended 31 October 2015, the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

Approved by the Board on 23 March 2016.

# THE PROSPECTS FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016



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