

HYNDBURN'S COMMUNITY-OWNED
ENVIRONMENTAL CHARITY



**24TH ANNUAL REPORT
2022-2023**

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

What can I say!

It has been a great year - apart from a few minor setbacks due to Covid absences.

All the project work has gone well and it has been pleasing how the staff team get on together and combine their projects to the best advantage. Many thanks to Brandon, Chloe, Gareth, Helen, Joel and Robert. And thanks to Alison and Gemma for their charity management.

The Foundation's finances are in great shape - due to a combination of new funding and sound management. As usual many thanks to Nick.

We look forward to reviving the Outdoor Learning programme and starting at least one new programme in the new year - Community TreeACTION! - to increase and help regenerate the borough's woodlands. Grant applications to the Windfall Fund are gathering pace again and we're beginning to see some very interesting proposals coming forward.

Woody is also back on its feet, having spent most of the winter combatting Ash dieback and we are looking forward to going into production with timber milling and product making in the coming months.

We continue to make slow but very steady progress with Coach Road Solar Meadow.

We still miss Mike and see reminders of his work everywhere...

Many thanks to all the trustees for their solid and loyal attendance and input to meetings. I would like to think we might repay their enthusiasm with a little developmental work this year. It is a shame we are not seeing so much of Colin these days and we wish him all the best.

Enormous thanks to the crowd of volunteers who both benefit from and enjoy PROSPECTS' work, but especially because they all make it effective and successful.

Phil Vincent-Barwood MBE *Spring 2023*



MISSION AND CORE VALUES

OUR MISSION

To work with the local community to carry out environmental action projects and activities that all can enjoy.



OUR CORE VALUES

- We value our environment, both locally and globally and respect its uniqueness and fragility
- We are committed to the principle of environmental sustainability
- We act as a catalyst for positive environmental change and work to organic principles
- 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 can contribute to improved mental health and wellbeing
- We work ethically



OUR CORE SUSTAINABILITY THEMES



Our 6 sustainability themes guide and inform all the decisions we make and all the work we carry out. They form the core of all our project work and we try to ensure that all our actions are not harmful to the environment and take account of both local and global environmental issues and positively contribute to the reduction of climate change.

IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE HABITATS

Protecting and enhancing local wildlife and plant life.

INCREASING WASTE MINIMISATION AND RECYCLING

Identifying more ways of reducing, reusing and recycling waste which could lead to a cleaner, greener, healthier environment.

INCREASING THE PRODUCTION OF LOCALLY GROWN FOOD

Encouraging the growing of local, organic fruit and vegetables and increasing access to healthier food.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Encouraging cycling, walking and the greater use of public transport and recognising the additional health benefits of increased physical activity in the outdoors.

PROMOTING ENERGY CONSERVATION AND THE USE OF RENEWABLES

Improving home and community energy efficiency and contributing towards reducing carbon emissions.

RAISING AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Highlighting local and global environmental issues, including the impacts of climate change and raising the profile of what we do locally.



2022/2023 SUMMARY OF THE YEAR



- We held our first Eco Fest event in Accrington town square in August 2022, the festival was a brilliant success with around 1000 visitors. We had stalls, craft demonstrations, live music and entertainers - see the centre pages to find out more! Eco Fest will be back again in June 2023.
- The Green Spaces Trainees, Brandon Cherry and Chloe Jameson, have come on in leaps and bounds since starting work with us in 2022. They've learnt a range of new skills, including achieving their chainsaw, brushcutter, first aid and health and safety qualifications. They've been leading their own volunteer sessions and have grown in confidence. We're really pleased to have been able to support 2 young people into a career in conservation.
- We've planted over 2,000 trees across Hyndburn with funding from Trees for Cities.
- We ran 7 Crafting Clubs for children over the school holidays, helping them to learn outdoor skills, bushcraft and campfire cooking.
- We've been busy helping with the Pleck Meadow project at Peel Park and the Coppice LNR, the grassland is now being managed as a wildflower meadow, and a new wetland area has been created. New paths and a bridge have been installed to help improve access from Arden Hall and Hodder Street.
- We've received training from the Lancashire Wildlife Trust to enable us to carry out condition assessments for woodlands, heathlands and grasslands as well as timber volume and tree number estimation. We've used these skills to undertake assessments at sites across the borough.
- We've received maps and compass training and walk leader training from the Ranger team at Lancashire County Council.
- We've undertaken Ash dieback training and Ash management across the borough, including tree felling on some of the sites we manage.
- We've held team away days to Brockholes Nature Reserve and Beacon Fell to learn more about the management of the sites from the teams that work there.
- The Green Spaces team organised a month long walking festival in August 2022, taking people on a variety of different walks including nature walks, foraging walks and geocaching trails at sites across Hyndburn.
- We ran a series of free, eco-friendly Christmas gift workshops, making beeswax wraps, macramé tree decorations, Christmas wreaths and wooden Reindeers.
- We've been busy managing wildflower meadows across Hyndburn, including Pleck Meadow, Bullough Park, Jubilee Woodland, Martholme Greenway and Growing Wild, using scythes and electric brushcutters.
- We're working with partners on a new project to develop Hyndburn Borough Council's new green space at Bury Meadows in Oswaldtwistle.
- We've created a new post of Charity Assistant Manager to help support the Charity Manager. We welcomed Gemma McMullan into the role in October 2022. Gemma has also taken over management of the Windfall Fund.
- We've funded 21 Windfall Fund projects totalling over £84,000.

REWILDING



The Rewilding Hyndburn's Green Spaces project, led by Gareth Muir - Habitats and Heritage/Rewilding Officer, aims to get people growing their own food whilst providing a home for nature. The project is currently funded by the Lancashire County Council Food Grant Scheme, D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust and the Windfall Fund.



324 individual volunteers and participants have engaged in the project with groups from St Christopher's School, Accrington Academy, St Bartholomew's School, Lee Royd Nursery School and St John's School (Great Harwood) all taking part in the project on their own sites and on the community gardens.

Over the last year the project has delivered 70 activity and workshop sessions across 4 community gardens: Oakhill Park Incredible Edible Garden, Growing Wild Community Allotment, Woodnook Community Garden and Miller Fold Allotment 6a. Each site has its own approach to growing, with Miller Fold focusing on no dig vegetable gardening, Woodnook Community Garden as a forest garden, Growing Wild as a community allotment and orchard with wild space and Oakhill Park Incredible Edible Garden as a 'help yourself' resource for the community to access fresh fruit and herbs.





The Rewilding project has supported Rishton PROSPECTS Panel in the Rishton Railway Garden and Half Moon Garden. The project has also supported parishioners at All Saints' Church, Clayton-le-Moors to look after their church garden.

The Rewilding project has also delivered Crafting Club sessions at Woodnook Community Garden and the Woodnook Centre through the summer and school holidays, with funding from the Aurora Trust and in collaboration with the Green Team, Green Mentor and HEAL Project. The sessions included bushcraft, campfire cooking and outdoor learning. The Rewilding project also contributed to PROSPECTS' winter crafts offer, delivering a 'make your own Reindeer' project just in time for Christmas!



PROSPECTS has worked in partnership with Onward who own Woodnook Community Garden. Several of Onward's staff came along to help clean up the site and remove fly tipping. Onward continues to invest in the site with soft fruit shrubs and trees being purchased and Onward have further plans to improve the accessibility of the site.



Fruit from the community gardens was used to make jams, chutney and juice. Apple pressing equipment purchased from a generous grant from the Arnold Clark Community Fund was used for community juicing days and fruit pressing at several schools.

HEAL PROJECT AT PEEL PARK AND THE COPPICE LNR



The HEAL Project at Peel Park and the Coppice LNR wrapped up at the end of March 2023. The Project Officers, first Gemma McMullan (November 2021 - September 2022) and then Robert Gabryszak (promoted from Assistant to Project Officer in October 2022), led conservation management, health walks and training sessions throughout the year.

The project has managed 15 hectares of heathland, over 5 hectares of woodland and 2 hectares of grassland habitat at the site. 12 health walks have taken place, including a 'Not-so-creepy Crawly Walk', a 'Signs of Spring Walk', and 'Winter Wellbeing Walks'. These focussed on getting people out into nature to help improve their wellbeing.



Volunteers have taken part in a range of conservation activities by attending the weekly 'Conservation Volunteers' sessions. Activities have included tree-thinning on the heathland, litter-picking, removal of invasive species like Rhododendron and Himalayan Balsam, path clearance and sowing seeds and planting wildflowers.



Volunteers have also been able to access training sessions such as dry stone walling, condition assessment training for woodland, grassland and heathland habitats, moss ID training, leaky dam construction, badger sett surveying and scything. These sessions aimed to improve conservation skills and ecological understanding for both staff and volunteers.

HEAL PROJECT AT PEEL PARK AND THE COPPICE LNR



An event in March 2023 saw the Mayor of Hyndburn, Councillor Abdul Khan, perform a ribbon cutting on the bridge to officially open the new green space for everyone to enjoy. Local schools and members of the council attended and helped to scatter wildflower seed on the meadow.

The project was funded by the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund (delivered by the National Lottery Heritage Fund).

The star of the project was Pleck Meadow, a new addition to Peel Park and the Coppice LNR, which was acquired by Hyndburn Borough Council in 2018. After a public consultation in June 2022, work on Pleck Meadow began in August with a tractor cut to remove the long vegetation, reduce nutrients and promote native wildflowers. This will greatly benefit pollinators like bees and butterflies.

Robert Gabryszak's role as Project Officer will continue into 2024 as additional funding has been secured from the Lancashire Wildlife Trust (via the Lancashire Environmental Fund) and the Windfall Fund for the Peel Park Pollinators project, which will focus on habitat management for pollinators at the site.

In November, contractors worked to create new wetland habitats to act as natural flood management and provide habitat for amphibians, aquatic invertebrates and other wildlife. A new path has also been created stretching from Hodder Street (next to Arden Hall Playing Fields) to the top of Pleck Meadow, solidifying a new connection from Arden Hall to the rest of the site. This will increase accessibility to the general public and allow easier access for conservation work.



HABITATS AND HERITAGE



The 3-year National Lottery Heritage Fund Habitats and Heritage woodland project, led by Gareth Muir - Habitats and Heritage/Rewilding Officer, comes to an end in June 2023. The project has involved the management of 8 woodland sites in Hyndburn on behalf of Lancashire County Council.



Natural regeneration of native tree species has been encouraged and trees have been planted to replace trees felled due to Ash dieback and the removal of non-native tree species. Coppicing [a traditional form of woodland management] has been carried out across the woodland sites to produce habitat piles for invertebrates and cover for birds and mammals. Wood cut from the coppice stools has been used for bushcraft, whittling and green wood projects, including spoon carving and an introduction to green wood working workshops.



The sites include: Abbott Clough, Knuzden; Huncoat East and West; Martholme Greenway, Great Harwood; Rushton House Farm and Warcocks Green, Oswaldtwistle; and Whinney Hill, Accrington. Woodland management has included securing boundaries, pathway maintenance, tree planting, safety felling of Ash trees with Ash dieback, non-native species management of Himalayan Balsam by volunteers, engaging contractors to manage Japanese Knotweed and selective thinning of non-native trees such as Grey Alder.



Volunteers have also taken part in meadow management, using scythes to encourage native wildflowers on the sites and reduce the use of fossil fuel powered tools. Volunteers have engaged in litter picks across the sites, with Oswaldtwistle Rotary supporting PROSPECTS in Whinney Hill woodland to remove 20 bags of rubbish in one session! Dry stone wall repair and fence repairs along with dead hedging have been used to secure the boundaries of the sites.

HABITATS AND HERITAGE



Volunteers have been working hard on mapping the woodland cover in the borough, producing maps of the 8 woodland sites, as well as other woodlands, including those belonging to Hyndburn Borough Council. These maps will be used to inform future woodland management, as a resource to measure the state of Hyndburn's woodlands and as a means to identify further woodland work in the borough. The Hyndburn's Woodlands website was launched in April 2023 with the aim of being a continuing resource to explore, learn about and treasure Hyndburn's woodlands (www.hyndburnwoodlands.org.uk).

Over the period April 2022 to March 2023, 70 new volunteers have engaged in the project across 70 activity sessions, with volunteer groups working across all 8 woodland sites. Several seasonal tree identification walks have taken place at Whinney Hill, including winter identification of bark and buds, spring identification of blossom and catkins, summer identification of leaves and autumnal identification of seeds, fruit and nuts. Huncoat East is home to an outdoor education space, where spoon carving, introduction to green wood working and bushcraft sessions have been held.



The Habitats and Heritage project was fortunate to have another Myerscough College student placement supporting the project in 2023. Special thanks to Emily Cooper for all her hard work on this and other PROSPECTS' projects.

GREEN INFLUENCER SCHEME

The Green Influencer scheme is run by our Green Mentor, Joel Henderson. The project has been running for over 2 years and will be coming to a close in June 2023. The project is funded by the Ernest Cook Trust and since the last annual report we've worked with more than 200 children across 12 schools with an average learning time of 4 hours per child. The schools that have taken part in the project so far are: Baxenden St John's, Belthorn Academy, Benjamin Hargreaves, Broadfield Specialist School, Intack Primary, Great Harwood Primary, Hyndburn Park Academy, St Andrew's Oswaldtwistle, St Bartholomew's, St Christopher's, St Oswald's and St Wulstan's.

A total of 10 children-led projects have taken place which included: growing vegetables and plants, tree planting, bird box and bird feeder making, willow weaving, wreath making, wood pyrography, litter picking, river surveys and sampling, a 'trashion' show in London and an alligator made from recycled materials for Oswaldtwistle Carnival.



The Green Mentor project also supported PROSPECTS Eco Fest 2022 and St Christopher's Eco Club brought in £5,000 investment in the form of a grant from the Ernest Cook Trust, which paid for the entertainment at the event.

The Green Mentor role was also heavily involved in supporting the North West Schools Sustainability Learning Conference at Ewood Park, Blackburn in June 2022. We were able to encourage representation from most of the schools that we work with and supported them to get there by providing free places and transportation. On the day our stall was well visited and our chosen activity of terrarium making was very popular.

BENJAMIN HARGREAVES CITIZEN SCIENCE RIVER SAMPLING

The students from year 5 headed up to Pleck Brook at Peel Park and the Coppice LNR to carry out some citizen science. By carefully finding, identifying and recording the invertebrates in the stream they were able to identify the water body as being quite healthy. Whilst out, the students collected a bag full of rubbish and cleared the Himalayan Balsam from one part of the river bank, despite it being one of the hottest days of the year! A hike to the monument at the top of the Coppice finished off the day nicely.



GREEN INFLUENCER SCHEME

BAXENDEN ST JOHN'S WOODLAND WALK

During the autumn and winter months the Green Mentor took a number of schools on local walks through some of Hyndburn's woodlands. One of the best was a lovely crisp day in October when Baxenden St John's School walked to Priestley Clough. The children enjoyed some local history and learnt about the mills that used to dye fabric and what the local area was used for, including the old railway line. They also learnt about the local tree and plant species that could be identified at that time of year and finished off by collecting some seeds for planting later.



TREE PLANTING

St Oswald's and St Nicholas' Schools took part in some tree planting over the winter period. St Oswald's School planted up an edible hedge with Blackthorn, Elder and Crab Apples and the hope is that the students will be able to have a go at making some jams and jellies later in the year. St Nicholas' School continued with some tree planting that had been started in the previous year and are also planning a small orchard for next year. They are also hoping to create a covered area made from Willow for their forest school sessions.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S TRASHION SHOW

PROSPECTS was honoured to be invited to join St Christopher's textiles students in London for their annual Trashion show - a fashion show with a difference! Every single item used in the construction of the clothing was recycled. The students came up with some amazing designs and the top 3 costumes received some great prizes. It is hoped the students will go on to a career in the industry and change fast fashion forever.



ECO FEST 2022



We held our first and very successful Eco Fest in the Town Square in Accrington in August 2022. It enabled us to promote PROSPECTS to a wide audience and on the day we made over 100 terrariums and gave away more than 150 goody bags. More than 70 people signed up to our mailing list and enquired about volunteering with us.

We hosted over 20 stalls from other environmental organisations and charities including Ribble Rivers Trust, RSPB, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Lancashire Badger Group, Woody [Hyndburn] CIC, Go Velo Cycling, Greenpeace, Hyndburn Borough Council, Community Rail, Twigs magazine, Church and Oswaldtwistle Rotary Club, East Lancs Beekeepers, Sharenergy, Cambodia Crafts, Create Yourself, The Energy Guys, Chorley Nissan electric vehicles, Acorn Woodcraft, Community Food Hub, Hyndburn Baby Bank and the Food Pantry.

We promoted all things eco via talks, demonstrations and hands on activities. We also had some great entertainment from Johnny Elvis, Haslingden brass band, Blackburn Festival of Light samba band, Liam Paul acoustic covers and Northern Dholis Bhangra Drummers.

It was such a success that we're already planning Eco Fest 2023 for 17th June 2023.





GREEN SPACES 'NATURAL CONNECTIONS' PROJECT



The Green Spaces 'Natural Connections' Project is led by the Project Officer, Helen Earnshaw and two trainees, Brandon Cherry and Chloe Jameson. The project has been funded by the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund (delivered by the National Lottery Heritage Fund) and the Windfall Fund.

As part of the project, the trainees have undergone a huge amount of in-house and external training as well as 'on the job' mentoring to give them the best possible work experience to equip them for their future careers. This has included outdoor conservation skills such as brushcutter, hedgecutter and chainsaw use; tree felling with hand tools; woodland, grassland and heathland condition surveying; and more.



Starting in April 2022, the Green Spaces project has been about engaging with local people across Hyndburn and helping to connect them with their local green spaces. Up to now, the project has engaged with over 1,100 people across more than 45 different sites through volunteer sessions such as cutting back hedgerows, barbed wire removal and wildflower meadow management and community events such as gift-making, basket weaving and the popular 'August Walks Festival' which took 140 people on a variety of walks through Hyndburn. The 'Green Team' have also hosted a range of free training opportunities for the public, including scything, dry stone walling, outdoor first aid and map and compass training and have worked with many community groups such as the 109 Loyola Scout Group, the Meadow Sisters and 1st Call Accrington.



Throughout the year, the trainees have gained confidence and experience and have organised and delivered their own sessions. Brandon has delivered several sessions which tackle invasive, non-native species such as Snowberry and Cotoneaster at Woodnook Vale LNR and created a geocache walk at Oakhill Park. Chloe has hosted wreath and gift making workshops, delivered a session with a local Cubs group and has been running weekly butterfly surveys during the summer at Peel Park and the Coppice LNR.

GREEN SPACES 'NATURAL CONNECTIONS' PROJECT

In March 2023, the Green Spaces team delivered 10 tree planting sessions across 4 sites in Hyndburn: Lower Barnes Street, Clayton; the old railway line in Great Harwood; Harvey Street North, Oswaldtwistle and Bullough Park in Accrington. Thanks to the help of 173 volunteers (including 5 school groups), over 2,000 trees were planted in 15 days – what an achievement! The school children have vowed to come back to their trees and look after them. One of the year 5 pupils at the Harvey Street site has promised to come back when she is 80 years old to see her giant Wych Elms.



The Green Spaces team have received fantastic feedback from volunteers and participants, emphasising the fact that being outside or 'connected to nature' in some way boosts their sense of wellbeing. Members of the public have praised the efforts of the team and their volunteers, stating that they 'feel safer', 'appreciate all that we do' and 'feel inspired' to utilise their green spaces.

WINDFALL FUND

During the 2022/23 year we received 25 Windfall Fund applications, which resulted in 16 groups being awarded funding for 21 different projects totalling £84,788.14. We awarded 12 mini grants (£9,456.73), 1 small grant (£1,993.23) and 8 large grants (£73,338.18).

In terms of our sustainability themes, 7 grants were for environmental awareness (£5,230), 6 grants were for improving biodiversity (£49,130.18), 4 grants were for local food (£6,427.96), 2 grants were for energy saving (£22,000), 1 grant was for waste reduction (£1,000) and 1 grant was for sustainable transport (£1,000).

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

St Wulstan's PTFA

Belthorn PTA

Church and Oswaldtwistle Rotary Club

Friends of St Christopher's

St Hubert's Fundraising Group

Lancashire Schools Sustainability Forum

The PROSPECTS Foundation

LOCAL FOOD

Maundy Relief

Church and Oswaldtwistle Rotary Club

St Paul's Primary School PTFA

Tinkerbrook Support Services CIC



£1,000 Eco education sessions and eco bread bag sculpture

£200 Eco Schools Green Flag award

£600 Trout in the classroom project at White Ash School in Oswaldtwistle

£470 Places at the 2023 Schools Sustainability Conference and contribution towards travel costs for Roots and Shoots awards in London

£995 3 reading huts made from recycled materials (bread bag bricks) and a forest school starter pack

£965 Free places for Hyndburn schools at the 2023 North West Schools Sustainability Conference and Leadership CPD event

£1,000 Contribution towards the extension of the 'Natural Connections' Green Spaces project to June 2023

£2,500 Food growing project at Oakhill Park

£990 Development of an edible and sensory garden at Rhyddings High School

£944 Prayer and reflection garden with raised beds for food growing

£1,993 Repairs to polytunnel and installation of new raised beds. Upgrade of kitchen and meeting room facilities, including food preparation areas, recycling bins and energy efficient lighting

IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY

The PROSPECTS Foundation

£5,174 Towards the 'Natural Connections' Green Spaces project

Peel Park PTA

£292 Pots for pollinators project for all pupils

Piggy Park Community Garden Organisation

£2,655 New wildflower areas, habitat boxes, wildlife pond and campfire seating

The PROSPECTS Foundation

£21,600 Contribution towards the Community TreeACTION project

The PROSPECTS Foundation

£9,408 Contribution towards the Peel Park Pollinators project

The PROSPECTS Foundation

£10,000 Contribution towards the Hyndburn Woodlands Project



ENERGY SAVING

St Paul's Parochial Church Council

£7,000 New energy efficient boiler to replace 40 year old boiler

Baxenden and District Golf Club

£15,000 Solar panels, air source heat pump, water heater, infrared radiators and roof space insulation

WASTE REDUCTION

Friends of St Mary's Clayton-le-Moors

£1,000 Maintenance of existing eco brick structure and construction of eco brick reading huts

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Friends of St Christopher's

£1,000 Transport for local schools to attend the 2022 North West Schools Sustainability Conference in Blackburn



Since the Windfall Fund started in 2013 we've funded a total of 205 projects to over 90 different groups with grants totalling over £840,000!! Many projects are still ongoing and we are always keen to watch their progress. Here's to another year of great projects and interesting ideas!

WOODY (HYNDBURN) CIC - OUR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



Woody began the year finishing off the community tree planting and woodland regeneration work under the Treescapes programme - a continuation of the community activities started during the winter on a whole range of sites all around the borough. It was a welcome change from felling trees – although of course that is just as essential for woodland management reasons!

Woody and the community volunteers planted nearly 3,000 trees on 10 sites around the borough and also established a deer exclusion zone with temporary fencing as an experiment at the Growing Wild site in Baxenden. This was to see how successfully we could deter Roe Deer from eating self-seeded tree seedlings from an open grass area next to an established woodland alongside Woodnook Water. The deer love seedlings especially oaks and it will be instructive to see how beneficial it will be in extending the woodland. We will monitor the situation and report back! During the summer, timber felled during the previous winter was extracted, maintenance was carried out on the Treescapes sites and the volunteers took part in first aid training, installed benches and carried out sawmilling to produce timber for product making.

The usual winter felling work resumed in September and a lot of it this year involved the felling of Ash trees suffering from dieback. Ash safety felling was carried out at Woodnook Vale, Rothwell Heights, Miller Fold Woodland, the lower part of the Coppice (all Accrington), Tinker Brook (Oswaldtwistle),

Clayton Forest Park and Adventure Hyndburn [Church]. Sadly, Ash dieback is now an endemic disease among Ash trees everywhere although it is thought something like 5-10% of Ash trees may survive and hopefully we will eventually see Ash trees returning in numbers to our woodlands in coming years. It can be regarded as part of the long term natural woodland cycle and standing dead trees are beneficial to the overall woodland ecology. In the meantime, the priority in publicly accessible woodlands must be to minimise safety risks to people.



WOODY (HYNDBURN) CIC - OUR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



The Woody volunteers also carried out Larch thinning on three areas on the upper part of the Coppice and footpath clearance on various sites.

41 loads of firewood were sold along with two more unusual orders – 100 Hazel poles for yurt making and six special straight grained Ash logs for making longbows! Woody also specialises in a number of timber products – bird, bat and hedgehog boxes, benches and bench repairs, rustic construction timber and cladding and is looking forward to the new timber milling season with the mobile Logosol sawmill.



Woody is a community interest company (CIC) that was set up by the PROSPECTS Foundation ten years ago and legally and financially is a separate organisation. In most years all of the CIC's income is grant-free and almost 100% earned from contract work and sales. Most is reinvested back into the business but in good years Woody has been able to donate contributions to PROSPECTS.

Woody now has a regular volunteer team of up to 10 people and on some days this year welcomed some of the PROSPECTS' team too, namely Helen, Chloe, Brandon and Gareth. Many thanks are due to all the volunteers for all their hard work – and for their banter!

COACH ROAD SOLAR MEADOW



COACH ROAD SOLAR MEADOW – PROSPECTS COMMUNITY ENERGY

This project is being progressed jointly by the PROSPECTS Foundation and our Community Benefit Society, PROSPECTS Community Energy (PCE) with help from Sharenergy, which is another co-op that supports community energy schemes. There has also been help from other technical, legal, financial and commercial consultancies. The work to date has been funded by two grants from the Rural Community Energy Fund – one to the Foundation and one to PCE – with smaller amounts from Hyndburn Council and the Windfall Fund.

PCE has been formed to own and run the project because its semi-commercial nature and the raising of a significant value of shares is beyond the normal activities of the charity.

The proposal is to build a 2 megawatt (peak) solar array at the 3.5 hectare site owned by the PROSPECTS Foundation at Coach Road in Oswaldtwistle.

It is true to say that this project has proven to be more complex and demanding than any other in PROSPECTS' history. It is definitely the biggest financially and will certainly have the greatest impact in terms of environmental benefit. It is expected to be the largest community owned energy scheme in Lancashire and should generate

1,760,000 kilowatt hours of electricity every year, equivalent to powering 475 houses. By displacing electricity generated from fossil fuel, this will save 408 tonnes of atmospheric carbon emissions for each year of operation – or 10,200 tonnes of carbon over the 25 years' lifetime of the project. It is proposed that all the grassland under the panels will be managed – as well as the hedgerow, pond, woodland and grassland that will not be affected by the panels – for optimum wildlife value.

With the input of enormous amounts of voluntary time, all the technical design information and financial modelling has been assembled as well as everyone getting to grips with the legal complexities to make the project viable. The project is now very nearly at the point of the planning application being submitted. Everything depends on this and during the course of the next few months it is hoped we will be able to move forward with the capital financing of the project.

Assuming the planning application is successful, if you are interested in buying future community shares in Coach Road Solar Meadow please watch for news on the PROSPECTS website.



Our full annual accounts can be downloaded from the Reports section on the About Us page on our website at www.prospectsfoundation.org.uk - or paper copies are available from our Environment Centre at 54 Broadway, Accrington.

Statement of Financial Activities

Income from:	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
Charitable activities	-	321,775	321,775	3,816	362,804	366,620
Investment income	1,350	301	1,651	1,132	307	1,439
Other income	22,201	20,131	42,332	19,027	4,912	23,939
Total income	23,551	342,207	365,758	23,975	368,023	391,998
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	(1,804)	(293,221)	(295,025)	(8,057)	(269,416)	(277,473)
Total expenditure	(1,804)	(293,221)	(295,025)	(8,057)	(269,416)	(277,473)
Net income/(expenditure)	21,747	48,986	70,733	15,918	98,607	114,525
Net movement in funds	21,747	48,986	70,733	15,918	98,607	114,525
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	104,009	242,493	346,502	88,091	143,886	231,977
Total funds carried forward	125,756	291,479	417,235	104,009	242,493	346,502

Balance Sheet at 31st October 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets:		
Tangible assets	15,000	15,000
Current assets:		
Debtors	-	499
Investments	25	25
Cash at bank and in hand	418,186	350,947
	418,211	351,471
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(15,976)	(19,969)
Net current assets	402,235	331,502
Net assets	417,235	346,502
Funds of the charity:		
Restricted income funds		
Restricted funds	291,479	242,493
Unrestricted income funds		
Unrestricted funds	125,756	104,009
Total funds	417,235	346,502



THE PROSPECTS PANELS

HUNCOAT COMMUNITY FORUM

The forum now meets at the Whitaker's Arms on Burnley Road on the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm.

Members have been maintaining the many planters around the village, looking after the railway station garden and areas on Lowergate Road. The removal of tree guards at Spout House woodland has been a major undertaking and is still ongoing. Hundreds, possibly thousands, of tree guards have been removed ready to be taken off site. Many thanks to all who helped with this, including Nigel and Liz, the Green Spaces team from PROSPECTS plus the 109th Loyola Scout Group from Oswaldtwistle. There are continuing improvements being carried out to paths, drainage and stiles at Spout House too.



Litter picks around the village continue. Without the dedication of Chris and his regular clean-ups Huncoat would not be as pleasant. The railway station and the planters around the village are maintained by volunteers and help make Huncoat a tidy and attractive place to be.

A wildflower area on Burnley Road, opposite Accrington Garages, has recently been prepared and it is exciting to await the results of the planting of a butterfly and bee friendly wildflower mix. Watch this space!



RISHTON PROSPECTS PANEL

The past year has been particularly sad as Colin Cooper, a stalwart and founder member of the Rishton PROSPECTS Panel has had to step back due to ill health. Everyone will definitely miss Colin and his enthusiasm and extensive knowledge but he would certainly want the work to carry on.

Several people have shown an interest in cultivating a raised bed in the Rishton railway station food growing area. Gareth Muir from PROSPECTS has helped to tidy the area and interested parties have been invited to a working party to take this project forward.



Joel Henderson from PROSPECTS is now project managing the station art project and it is hoped this can be finalised next year.

Once again the panel received bedding plant donations from Nurture Landscapes which enhanced the many planters around the town. Thanks must also go to two further stalwarts of Rishton, Alan and Christine Hammerton, for the fabulous Dahlias that they plant each year in prominent positions in Rishton.

Panel numbers are small but all are still ambitious to enhance Rishton town. There are plans afoot to enhance a small piece of derelict land owned by Lancashire County Council, which is in a very prominent position on the High Street. Contact has been made with both Nurture Landscapes and Lancashire County Council to hopefully progress this potential new project.

CLAYTON-LE-MOORS WITH ALTHAM PROSPECTS PANEL

The panel meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Forts Arms on Lower Barnes Street, Clayton-le-Moors. Meetings last no longer than an hour.

The panel has continued to undertake work looking after the Millennium Baby Woodland, off Burnley Road [A678], which involves litter picks, removal of mulch mats, reinstalling path markers, removal of dead or dangerous trees, installation of bird boxes, cutting back branches on path edges, Himalayan Balsam removal and the creation of brash pads from the removed branches and twigs to encourage wildlife. This year they are also planting additional saplings which have kindly been donated by the Woodland Trust consisting of a wild harvest pack of Hazel, Blackthorn, Crab Apple, Elder, Dog Rose, Rowan and a hedge pack.



The panel is still looking into the feasibility of creating a memorial woodland in honour of past members of PROSPECTS and those who have died due to Covid, on the open field between the Millennium Baby Woodland and St. Mary's burial ground.

There has been interest in the landscaped area at the head of Pickup Street and Whalley Road and together with Hyndburn Council the panel is preparing a design which will involve minimal future maintenance.

Anyone interested in joining the panel will be most welcome and can contact Paul Worswick at the following e-mail address: paulworswick1@hotmail.co.uk



BAXENDEN COMMUNITY FORUM

It has been a quieter year for the forum this year, but membership has remained constant and loyal which is a big plus when any tasks that are undertaken rely solely on volunteer efforts. The forum members have been looking after the planters on Hollins Lane as well as the rose garden at Haworth Park. Visitors come from far and wide to visit the Haworth Art Gallery for the Tiffany glass collection and take a stroll through the garden and the roses are a key feature in the park.

Thanks to Roger Cunliffe, who is the Forum representative on the PROSPECTS management committee. He organised a number of fabulous bat walks this year which were extremely popular with local people. Forum members have also enjoyed taking part in many PROSPECTS activities in the area, particularly carrying out improvements in Hollins and Jubilee woodlands.



WHO WE ARE

OFFICERS:

ALISON SILVER

Charity Manager (and Windfall Fund Co-ordinator until September 2022)

GEMMA MCMULLAN

Charity Assistant Manager and Windfall Fund Co-ordinator from October 2022 (and Project Officer for Peel Park and the Coppice LNR until September 2022)

GARETH MUIR

Rewilding Officer and Habitats & Heritage Officer

JOEL HENDERSON

Green Mentor

ROBERT GABRYSZAK

Project Officer Peel Park and the Coppice LNR from October 2022 (and Assistant Project Officer Peel Park and the Coppice LNR until September 2022)

HELEN EARNSHAW

Green Spaces Officer

BRANDON CHERRY

Green Spaces Trainee

CHLOE JAMESON

Green Spaces Trainee



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

Registered Charity Number: 1076541

Registered Company Number: 03686719

Bankers:

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Auditors:

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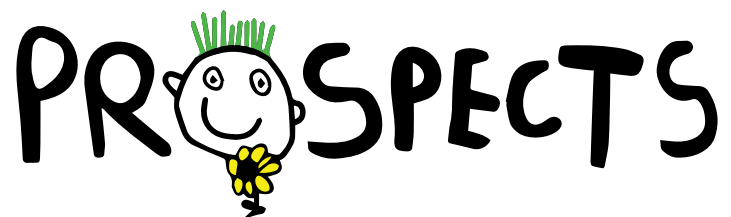
LOOKING FORWARD

We've lots to look forward to in the year ahead! We've got some new projects starting and some exciting projects in the planning and funding stages.

- We're busy planning Eco Fest 2023 for 17th June 2023 in Accrington Town Square, save the date in your diary and come and join us for a day packed full of free eco-themed events and activities and live entertainment!
- We're working on a proposal for a new community buildings project, to help community groups to decarbonise their buildings, save carbon emissions, save money and keep warm.
- We're also working on a proposal for a development project at Bury Meadows in Oswaldtwistle. Hyndburn Council has recently acquired the land which will be managed as a natural green space for local residents and wildlife.
- The project at Peel Park and the Coppice LNR has received a funding extension to carry out work focussing on habitat management for pollinators at the site. Robert Gabryszak will lead on this new 'Peel Park Pollinators' project which is funded until February 2024.
- We have a new 'Hyndburn Woodlands Officer' post starting soon, managing 10 Lancashire County Council owned woodlands across Hyndburn. Working with the local community and volunteers, the officer will carry out habitat improvements, woodland management and maintenance of access routes, along with activities including wildlife walks, surveys and bushcraft sessions.
- We have a new 'Community TreeACTION Officer' post starting soon. The TreeACTION project will plant 1 tree for every household in Hyndburn - that's over 15,000 trees! A key part of the role will be to raise awareness of climate change and the actions people can take to tackle the climate emergency.
- We're also recruiting for an 'Outdoor Learning Officer' to help people to engage with the outdoors and get out and about in nature. This role will also focus on the actions people can take to tackle the climate emergency.
- We're excited to see how PROSPECTS Community Energy's proposal for a solar meadow at Coach Road in Oswaldtwistle progresses, this is an ambitious renewable energy project that could generate enough electric to power 475 houses!

As well as this we will be recruiting more volunteers, funding more projects through the Windfall Fund and raising our profile through social media.





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