



HYNDBURN'S COMMUNITY-OWNED  
ENVIRONMENTAL CHARITY



**Annual Report**  
**2025/2026**

# Introduction from the Co-Chairs

We as new Co-Chairs would like to start our first introduction to the annual report with a heartfelt thanks to all the incredible local people, volunteers, community groups, Prospects Panels, businesses, trustees, partner organisations, funders and Prospects staff who have worked as part of the collective Prospects approach to achieve so many environmental improvements in Hyndburn throughout the year.

As a local environmental action charity, we are mindful of the ongoing and escalating climate and nature emergencies and in our support for communities we place a great emphasis on the importance of 'thinking globally whilst acting locally'.

This annual report contains more information on the various projects where we have empowered even more local people and groups to bring about environmental change. This project work continues at a pace and special thanks to the staff team of Alice, Alison, Brandon, Gemma, Helen and Robert for their facilitation of projects across Hyndburn, many with the backing of the Windfall Fund and Hyndburn Borough Council.

The finances of the Foundation continue to be in good health thanks to the sterling work of Nick, our Treasurer, and members of the Finance sub-committee. We also extend our thanks to Phil, our Vice Chair and founder, for his valued support throughout this first year since stepping down as long term Chair of the Foundation.

Notable achievements this year have been the delivery of a climate action workshop to empower more residents to undertake environmental action in their communities; enabling more schools and residents to explore environmental action through arts and crafts; enabling the creation and management of more wildflower meadows to provide natural havens for people and wildlife; and supporting community buildings to save energy and money through better insulation and renewable energy installation and generation (something we plan to build on as we secure more funding).

In June 2025 we ran our fourth and very successful EcoFest in Accrington town centre which was attended by over 2,000 people and was an excellent way of promoting Prospects and environmental action to a wider audience. In 2026 we will be trying a different approach by having a presence at a number of different events held throughout Hyndburn. So, do look out for future publicity concerning these.

Sadly, last October, Bill Matthews, a former Prospects Foundation trustee and Chair of the Baxenden Community Forum passed away. In the coming year we plan to plant a commemorative tree in Oak Hill Park in his memory.

We would also like to thank Woody, our related Community Interest Company, for all the woodland management work they have carried out during the year and in particular for the funding and re-planting at Hollins Wood and the construction of a

commemorative bench in honour of Mike Stapleford, our former Charity Manager, who died in September 2021.

We have now adopted our five-year development plan which will help us focus on the way forward for the Foundation in the escalating climate and nature emergencies. The plan has a strong emphasis on capitalising on our successes and improving delivery of benefits with the community not to the community.

Many challenges lie ahead locally especially the uncertainty of Local Government Reorganisation and how that may affect us and how we empower local environmental action in communities.

However, we also recognise there is an ever greater need for action at our level in the context of the climate emergency, biodiversity decline and disastrous reversals in government policy.

We will continue to work on developing innovative solutions such as our work with Prospects Community Energy and partner organisations to bring the innovative community energy project at Coach Road Meadow forward.

We look forward to empowering even more people to be and feel effective in bringing about environmental change throughout Hyndburn.

**Mark Hopley and Paul Worswick**  
Co-Chairs of the Prospects Foundation  
Spring 2026



Mark Hopley

Paul Worswick

# Our Vision, Mission, Values, Development Goals and Action Themes

## Our Vision

A thriving, environmentally sustainable, biodiverse, low-carbon Hyndburn, where people come together to protect and care for the environment for current and future generations.

## Our Mission

To inspire and support people from all communities to protect the environment.

## Our Core Values

1. We are committed to protecting the environment locally and globally.
2. We inspire and empower local people to take action to protect the environment and reduce their carbon footprints.
3. We value everyone's contributions and believe community action makes communities stronger.
4. We believe time in nature improves physical and mental well-being.
5. We act ethically and choose environmentally sustainable practices because they help both people and the planet.
6. We believe in questioning the usual ways of doing things so we can find new solutions and address tough environmental problems.

## Our Development Goals

- **PEOPLE** - More people are engaged in community-led solutions which protect the environment for current and future generations.
- **PLACE** - More natural habitats are valued and cared for, benefiting everyone's health and wellbeing.

- **PLANET** - More people are inspired to become climate-aware and use natural resources wisely.
- **PROSPECTS** - More people are able to find inspiration, support, and funding for environmentally sustainable, community-led solutions.

## Our Themes

- **HELPING NATURE** - Creating and maintaining green spaces that support a wide range of native species and provide essential resources such as food, shelter, and connections for wildlife and habitats.
- **REDUCING WASTE** - Using fewer resources and generating less waste by making mindful choices, such as reusing and repairing items, recycling, and buying only what is needed.
- **TRAVELLING GREEN** - Promoting travel choices that minimise environmental and community impact.
- **GROWING AND BUYING LOCAL FOOD** - Growing fruit, vegetables and herbs at home or in community gardens, which can lead to healthier eating and cost savings.
- **SAVING ENERGY AND REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS** - Reducing energy use by using electricity and other resources efficiently and thoughtfully; and choosing solar and wind where possible to minimise reliance on fossil fuels.
- **UNDERSTANDING THE PLANET** - Learning more about the natural world, how our actions affect the planet's health, and understanding what individuals, households, and organisations can do to help.



# 2025/2026

## Summary of the Year

- We held our fourth very successful EcoFest on Broadway in Accrington in June 2025 which attracted over 2,000 visitors to the town centre. We hosted over 20 stalls from other environmental organisations and charities and promoted all things eco via talks, demonstrations, performances and hands-on activities. Find out more on pages 20 and 21.
- Our 2025 AGM was held at Stanhill Methodist Church in Oswaldtwistle in May where Alice Pooley led us on a guided walk to look at the recent habitat and access work undertaken as part of the Brookside Restoration Initiative.
- Phil Barwood officially stepped down as Chairman at the AGM after 27 years of service. We presented Phil with a Silver Birch tree and a Mike Berners-Lee book. Paul Worswick and Mark Hopley have taken over as Co-Chairs, and Phil is now Vice Chair.
- Our new 5-year Development Plan was finalised, detailing our vision, mission, goals and themes for November 2025–October 2030 and an action plan is now being prepared to take this forward.
- We awarded 28 Windfall Fund grants totalling £154,730 to local environmental projects.
- We successfully received funding from the Green Community Grants Programme (People's Postcode Trust), Trees for Cities, the Windfall Fund, Hyndburn Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, Electricity North West, the Duchy of Lancaster, Ernest Cook Trust, the National Lottery Climate Action Fund, Forestry Commission and Lancashire Environmental Fund.
- We launched our first crowdfunder campaign, which raised £6,712 for the Community Tree Nursery, thanks to donations from our supporters and the Aviva Community Fund. We also received a donation of £2,060 from Equans Regeneration Ltd for the Community Tree Nursery through 'Match My Project'.
- We took over the Growing Wild community allotment site in Baxenden in January. We're currently looking for funding for a new food growing project.
- Work started on the new community woodland at Bullough Park, which includes a wildflower meadow, wetland areas,

footpaths and signage. A community tree planting 'Forest Fun Day' was held at the site in December.

- Wildflower meadow management was expanded to King George's Meadow, Jackhouse Meadow and Brookside, as well as Pleck Meadow and Jubilee Meadow, including scything, robo-mowing and compact tractor 'cut and collects'.
- We helped Hyndburn Butterfly Project to scythe the wildflower meadow in Milnshaw Park.
- A volunteer and trustee celebration event was held at the Globe Bowling Club in December, with a buffet and quiz to thank people for their hard work over the past year.
- Over £1,400 of refills have been sold since opening our household product refill station in December 2023, helping to save 442 single use plastic bottles. All profits from the refill shop support environmental action in Hyndburn.
- We worked with corporate volunteers from Tetra Tech Ecology, BT, Fedcap, Chubb and Current Care.
- Our popular Christmas crafting sessions took place again in December, where people could make wreaths, natural Christmas tree decorations and wooden reindeers.
- We held a range of other crafting activities throughout the year including wooden marionette making, mini-beast bookmarks, hapa zome nature printing, live willow weaving, scarecrow making, finger painting, leaf printing, willow basket weaving, elderflower cordial making, wood cookie Easter bunnies, natural cordage and butterfly feeder making.
- Alison Silver, Gemma McMullan, Phil Barwood and Mark Hopley visited Twemlows Solar Farm with Dave Green from Sharenergy.
- The Brookside Master Plan, digital Story Map and video were officially launched. You can view them on the Brookside page on our website.
- A summer fun day was held at Brookside in August with music, craft activities, refreshments, and information about the project.
- We've worked with a number of local schools including Peel Park, Moor End, St

Andrew's, Intack, Hippings, St Nicholas, West End, St Mary's, St Wulstan's, St Bartholomew's, St Christopher's, Mount Carmel, Woodhook, and Accrington College.

- Alice Pooley took part in the Dragon Den's panel as part of the students' Young Green Briton Challenge at St Christopher's School.
- We've been busy carrying out citizen science activities again, including the Great UK Water Blitz at Woodhook Vale LNR and a 24-hour Bio-Blitz with North West Invertebrates, and the City Nature Challenge at Peel Park and the Coppice LNR.
- We attended several community events including the H3 'Health and Happiness' event at Hyndburn Leisure Centre, Hyndburn Leisure's Let's Move events in Milnshaw Park and Mercer Park, a pop up event at Accrington Dome, Stanhill Fete, the North West Schools Sustainability Conference and the Wilson Sports Village open weekend.
- Alison Silver and Mark Hopley attended the Climate Fresk in Skipton. Mark also attended the Lancashire Climate Action Forum at Cumbria University.
- Staff and volunteers took part in training courses on Ash dieback response and resilience, first aid, strimmers, building climate equity, scaling up community action and moth dissection for species identification.
- The Prospector of the Year award was presented to James Cheverton at EcoFest. James has been volunteering with Prospects for over 3 years and has been particularly active at Peel Park & the Coppice LNR, including taking on the role of chair of the 'Friends of Arden Hall & the Coppice' group, which has been in-active for several years. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication James!
- We said goodbye to Stephen Hutchinson (Low Carbon Community Buildings Officer) and Sonja Bottomer (Outdoor Learning Officer) as their projects came to an end in May and July.
- Finally, congratulations to volunteers Daniela, Sam, Kien, Graham and Tom who have all moved onto jobs in the environmental sector! This illustrates the benefits that volunteering can bring to people looking to build up their experience to gain employment.



# 2025/2026

## Our Impact This Year



**1,020**  
volunteer  
attendances



**1,305m**  
hedgerow  
planted



**1.9ha**  
heathland  
managed



**2,511**  
volunteer  
hours



**62**  
events



**340m**  
dead-hedge  
created



**186**  
bags of litter  
collected



**3.8ha**  
Himalayan  
Balsam  
managed



**203**  
volunteer  
sessions



**5,820**  
trees  
planted



**35**  
habitat boxes  
installed



**3.8ha**  
wildflower  
meadow  
managed



**2,889**  
event  
beneficiaries



**273**  
household  
refills sold



**27**  
local environmental  
projects received  
Windfall Fund grants  
totalling £153,730



# Brookside Restoration Initiative

The Brookside Restoration Initiative continues to demonstrate the power of community-led environmental action, with volunteers and local partners at the heart of its success. The project, led by Project Officer, Alice Pooley, is focused on restoring an 87-acre post-industrial site in Stanhill Village, Oswaldtwistle into 'a living model of nature recovery, community wellbeing, and a climate resilient future'. A major milestone this year has been the completion of the Brookside Master Plan and accompanying digital Story Map, shaped by over 400 consultation responses and extensive community input during the development phase.

Recent funding successes, including support from Hyndburn Borough Council, the Windfall Fund, and the Lancashire Environmental Fund, will enable the next stage of development at Brookside. Planned improvements include an eco-friendly volunteer hub, new accessible paths, improved signage, and extensive habitat restoration, ensuring that both people and wildlife can continue to benefit from the site.

Volunteers remain the driving force behind Brookside, contributing over 900 hours to practical conservation work. The Thursday gang, who are now supplemented by the monthly Sunday gang have rolled up their sleeves and got stuck into meadow creation, tree planting, path clearing, coppicing, invasive species control, and much, much more! Their efforts are already visible across every part of the site, transforming it into a thriving and welcoming space. With support from contractors, a beautiful community gathering space has been created on the northern end of the site.

Just as important as the physical changes on site are the personal impacts on participants. As one 'star of the season' volunteer reflected:

*"It's got me out of the house and helped me meet so many new people. I love being part of the Thursday group."*

Another star volunteer described the project as:

*"A real community offer... to get involved in everything nature, to learn, attend events, and volunteer to meet new people of all ages."*

These experiences highlight how Brookside is not only vital for climate action and biodiversity recovery, but also provides huge benefit for our local community. We are delighted to share that three Brookside volunteers have now moved into paid employment within the environmental sector!

Across Hyndburn, Alice has put on an incredible 33 events, with 589 beneficiaries. Partnership working has been central to this success. For example, collaboration with the Ribble Rivers Trust has enabled initiatives such as the River Blitz and Trout in the Classroom, giving volunteers and young people the opportunity to monitor and understand rivers in their local area. Similarly, partnership events at the Stanhill Social Club have proved hugely successful at engaging with new audiences and fundraising for the volunteer gang.

Engagement with schools has introduced hundreds of young people to nature through practical activities such as tree planting, river education and environmental workshops. These experiences are helping to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.

With dedicated volunteers, strong partnerships, and growing local support, Brookside is becoming not just a restored landscape, but a shared space shaped by and for the people who use it.





# Community TreeACTION

The Community TreeACTION project is a community tree planting initiative designed to encourage local climate action and raise awareness of the vital role that trees play in our future environment. Project Officer, Helen Earnshaw, is working in partnership with Hyndburn Borough Council to deliver a programme of planting sessions aimed at creating new woodlands and regenerating existing sites across Hyndburn. The project is now approaching its final year of a 4-year programme.

A major highlight of year 3 was the creation of Bullough Community Woodland. A detailed and technical Forestry Commission funding bid was successfully awarded in May 2025, enabling the project to progress. Contractor management increased significantly from this point, with major site improvements beginning in autumn 2025. New paths and steps were installed to improve access, alongside the creation of a large wildlife pond, which filled naturally within a weekend. Tree planting mounds were prepared, and contractors planted approximately 3,000 trees over 5 days in December 2025.

This work culminated in a large community tree planting event, 'Forest Fun Day: Bullough Park's Woodland Creation Celebration', held in December 2025. Despite wet weather, over 50 residents planted more than 600 trees. Speaking at the event, the Mayor of Hyndburn, Councillor Josh Allen, praised the project:

***"What the Prospects team are doing is truly inspiring and their dedication and work is not only helping our borough right now but is helping to protect and preserve the borough's wildlife and environment for future generations. As a borough, we owe a lot to the Prospects Foundation."***

The event also featured woodland crafts, finger painting, and the burial of a 'Future Forest' time capsule. Filled with wishes and predictions for the next 25 years, the capsule was lowered into the ground by the Mayor, who also read a poem by Mount Carmel High School Eco Club titled 'A Walk in Bullough Woodland in 2050'.

Improvements to Bullough Community Woodland have received strong local press coverage. Further enhancements are planned, including wildflower seeding and the installation of benches and signage. The woodland has been supported by funding from the Forestry Commission, Lancashire Environmental Fund, Windfall Fund, and Hyndburn Borough Council.

Additional planting sites this year included Peel Park and the Coppice LNR, Alan Ramsbottom Way, and Rothwell Heights Forest School. Species planted included English Oak, Scots Pine, Alder, Field Maple, and Spindle.

Alongside planting activities, the project continues to grow trees from locally sourced seed, prioritising stock from known and ancient woodland origins. Seeds are stratified and sown at the Prospects Community Tree Nursery at Miller Fold. These trees will support future replacement planting and may also be donated to other local projects.

Community support for the nursery has been exceptional. The Crowdfunder campaign launched in May 2025 raised £6,712, exceeding both the initial £2,000 target within 24 hours and a subsequent £4,500 stretch target. These funds have enabled the construction of additional planting beds, as well as the purchase of tools and materials to grow thousands of trees. Future improvements to paths

and access will further enhance safety and accessibility.

In its third year, 5,800 trees and over 500 acorns were planted through the TreeACTION project. 357 volunteers helped with tree planting and ongoing maintenance such as mulching. Participants included pupils from St Nicholas Primary School, police cadets from Hyndburn, Blackburn, Burnley and Pendle, local councillors, corporate volunteers from Fedcap, Prospects volunteers, and members of the public. During the year, the project welcomed a dedicated volunteer, Daniela, who has since progressed into employment with Hyndburn Borough Council's Parks Department. Daniela said:

***"My time with Prospects gave me the confidence to move forward, and through their close working relationship with the Council, I was given a great job opportunity. It's a really positive example of how strong partnerships can open doors and create real chances for people."***

The TreeACTION project was established in response to Hyndburn Borough Council's Climate Emergency Declaration in September 2019 and remains a key initiative enabling local people to take practical action on climate change. Funded by Hyndburn Borough Council and the Windfall Fund, the project will continue until June 2027.





# Hyndburn's Nature Reserves

Starting in November 2024, the Hyndburn's Nature Reserves project has been improving biodiversity and accessibility at Peel Park & the Coppice Local Nature Reserve, Woodnook Vale Local Nature Reserve, and Jackhouse Nature Reserve. Over the past year, Project Officer Robert Gabryszak has been working with schools, local community groups, volunteers, and contractors to carry out important, practical conservation activities. 169 individuals have taken part in the project so far, carrying out 814 hours of voluntary work in the past year.

Weekly volunteer sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays, (as well as occasional weekends), saw volunteers bashing Himalayan Balsam, removing injurious weeds, grubbing Rhododendron and Cotoneaster shrubs, planting wildflowers, installing bird boxes, picking litter, surveying wildlife, coppicing, dead-hedging, dry stone walling, and more!

Throughout the year Robert has received help from students at Peel Park Primary, Woodnook Primary, and St Christopher's schools for some of these activities. They also participated in scavenger hunts, pond-dipping, moth trapping, and wreath making. In April 2025, Peel Park Primary's Year 2 came to Pleck Meadow and Peel Park's heathland to sow seeds on the Butterfly Bank and plant wildflowers such as Kidney Vetch, Yarrow, Viper's Bugloss, Cowslip, Common Dog Violet, and Devil's-bit Scabious.

Important restorative meadow cuts were carried out at all 3 sites. In autumn 2025, over 1.5 hectares of meadow was cut by tractor or scythed by volunteers. Resulting hay was collected and removed to create nutrient poor soil which our native wildflowers love. Jackhouse also received

additional help from robot mowers! These helped to manage a slope inaccessible to the tractor. Cuts were followed by Yellow Rattle seed sowing by volunteers and Woodnook Primary School Year 2 pupils.

Winter 2025/26 saw the usual heathland restoration activities at the Coppice, primarily removing encroaching Birch and Bramble from the Heather and Bilberry. Multiple Green Hairstreak butterflies were seen in April 2025 on the heathland, which use the Bilberry as a foodplant. Keeping open and sunny patches of Bilberry is very important for the butterfly to thrive and keeping pollinators like bumblebees happy in the spring when it flowers.

A huge success for Peel Park & the Coppice LNR was the restoration of the community group, the 'Friends of Arden Hall & the Coppice'. Robert facilitated the reconstitution of the group, has offered support on their monthly volunteer sessions, and assisted with obtaining grants from the Windfall Fund and the Groundworks Grassroots Grant which will support the group's activities throughout 2026. The group now has 20 members signed up and they have carried out 13 practical sessions entailing litter picks, wildflower seed sowing, tree planting, and balsam bashing with nearly 100 volunteers in total.

This project has been made possible thanks to funding from Hyndburn Borough Council, the Windfall Fund and People's Postcode Lottery and Postcode Green Trust. The Windfall Fund has also supported the Friends of Jackhouse and Friends of Arden Hall & the Coppice to help pay for some of the meadow restoration work.





# Hyndburn's Woodlands

The Hyndburn's Woodlands project, led by Project Officer Brandon Cherry, manages 11 Lancashire County Council woodlands across the borough. The project operates for 3 days per week. The main objectives of the project are to manage the woodlands to promote visitor safety and biodiversity, and to engage with the local community through a range of environmental activities. The project is funded by Lancashire County Council, Hyndburn Borough Council, with match funding from the Windfall Fund. A portion of the funding comes from Section 106 money, allocated from the development of the housing estate adjacent to Whinney Hill woodland.

Over the last 12 months, the project has delivered 58 environmental volunteering sessions across the 11 woodlands. Volunteer action over the last year has accumulated around 404 hours of work, with 92 volunteer attendances in total.

This year alone, the project has removed 106 litter bags worth of rubbish from the woodlands, not including the difficult to quantify fly-tipping. Through volunteer action, a roughly 3,650 metres stretch of woodland path has been managed for visitor safety. This includes cutting back woodland edges, managing hazardous trees, and managing verges and paths. The project itself has tackled 15 fallen trees throughout the woodlands and has participated in and organised safety felling works, including management of Ash dieback and hazardous Willow trees.

The project has delivered biodiversity action resulting in the management of around 1 hectare of wildflower meadow across the 11 woodlands. With volunteers, 30 habitat boxes have been installed, around 240 metres of dead-hedge has been created, and 220 trees have been planted. Invasive species management has been an important part of improving biodiversity; this year we have cleared around 1 hectare of Himalayan Balsam from Whinney Hill. During sessions, we have also tackled many, more localised, invasive species such as Cotoneaster, Cherry/Japanese Laurel, Bamboo and Henry's Honeysuckle. Through the project, Japanese Knotweed has almost been eradicated from Whinney Hill woodland.

During the last year, the project has delivered 13 activities and events, engaging a total of 115 people. These have ranged from educational walks, such as tree identification, dawn choruses, and fungi walks; woodworking workshops where participants created their own reindeers and rabbits; and local action, where participants have assisted with the removal of litter or sown wildflower seeds. The project has also attended 4 large scale public events, in order to reach new audiences, spread awareness of the Prospects Foundation, and recruit new volunteers. These included the Let's Move event in Mercer Park and the H3 'Health and Happiness' event at Hyndburn Leisure Centre.





## Outdoor Learning: Addressing Climate Change

The 'Outdoor Learning: Addressing Climate Change' project aimed to promote climate action and environmental awareness in Hyndburn through outdoor education. The project was funded by the Ernest Cook Trust and the Windfall Fund and ran until July 2025. Outdoor Learning Officer, Sonja Bottomer, worked with a range of schools, community groups and local residents throughout the project, with over 1,500 beneficiaries in total.

Food growing activities were a core component of the project and Sonja led sessions at Miller Fold community allotment, Red Rose Recovery, Clayton Community Centre, and Hyndburn Academy, teaching participants how to grow food from seed and develop horticultural skills.

Work with schools was also a key part of the project, with Sonja chairing the EcoCluster of Hyndburn Schools, helping to bring schools together on a regular basis to discuss environmental issues and opportunities. As part of the project, Sonja supported local children to compete in the Young Green Briton Challenge Awards. This journey culminated in a

prestigious trip to the awards ceremony at City Hall in London. Sonja also engaged with young volunteers from the King's Trust to transform a patch of wasteland at St Wulstan's School in Great Harwood into a vibrant new forest school area.

In collaboration with Community Rail Lancashire, Sonja supported the Hyndburn Greenway artwork and nature walks. This work involved students from White Ash Special School and St Andrew's School, helping them to develop their creative skills whilst learning about biodiversity.

The project also established a new nature trail in Memorial Park, including the development of an education pack and a dedicated forest school area to ensure the park remains a hub for outdoor learning.

Through these activities, the Outdoor Learning project successfully bridged the gap between climate theory and community practice, sowing the seeds for a more sustainable future in Hyndburn.

# Low Carbon Community Buildings

Thanks to funding from Electricity North West's 'Powering Our Communities' Fund and the Windfall Fund, we ran a 14-month project to help community organisations in Hyndburn to reduce the carbon footprint of their buildings.

Low Carbon Community Buildings Officer, Stephen Hutchinson, headed up the project which ran from March 2024–May 2025. Stephen worked with local community organisations to help them reduce their building's carbon emissions and take action against climate change. By improving the energy efficiency of their buildings, community organisations could also reduce their energy costs and provide a warmer, more welcoming space for users.

Stephen supported community groups to obtain an energy audit of their buildings, as well as apply for funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy measures.

The following local projects received support from this project as well as grants from the Windfall Fund:

- Happy Cats Hyndburn – LED lighting at charity shop
- Accrington and District Sea Cadets – loft insulation
- Great Harwood Trinity URC Methodist Church Shop – LED lighting
- Great Harwood Golf Club – solar panels, batteries and replacement of a draughty external door
- Ernest Street Baptist Church – energy efficient boiler and LED lighting
- Hyndburn Voluntary, Community and Resource Centre – solar panels, batteries, heating controls, LED lighting
- Adventure Hyndburn – LED lighting and motion sensors

Support was also offered to other local organisations including Bowley Scout Camp and the RSPCA East Lancashire, who we hope will be able to continue to progress their projects in the near future.





# EcoFest 2025

Over 2,000 visitors flocked to the fourth annual EcoFest in Accrington town centre on Saturday 14th June 2025. The free event, which celebrates all things green and environmentally friendly, was officially opened by Hyndburn's new Mayor, Councillor Josh Allen. The Mayor presented James Cheverton with the Prospector of the Year award for his efforts in volunteering with the Prospects Foundation.

Throughout the day there was live music on the stage, with performances from Frolicking Pete and the Fumbling Fingers ceilidh band, the Dukes of Hazy ukulele band, Ross Whittaker 'Shoestring' singer, plus local favourites the Accrington Pipe Band and Haslingden Brass Band. The event featured climate-based theatre performances from Tenderfoot Theatre Company and amongst the crowds were walkabout puppets including the magical Meadow Sprites and the flying Sweep of Swallows. The Museum of Memorable Trees, an enchanting walkabout miniature exhibition on wheels, toured the festival sharing people's special memories and connections with trees.

Visitors enjoyed a host of free recycled arts and crafts activities, botanical art printing, eco messy play, embroidery, bird box making, face painting and henna art. There were stalls and activities from the Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Ribble Rivers Trust, Woody (Hyndburn) CIC, Cosy Homes in Lancashire, Greener Homes in Lancashire, Willow Top Hedgehog Rescue, Lancashire Peat Partnership, Fairtrade Lancashire, Growing Wild, Pendle Mushroom

Company, Coach Road Solar Meadow, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley CVS, Community Rail, Hyndburn Borough Council, Cycling UK and Martha's Kitchen jams and preserves. Providing food on the day was the Birchwood Pizza Van, serving up delicious vegetarian and vegan homemade pizzas.

The Prospects Foundation had stalls with giveaways, and information on how people can reduce their impact on the climate and environment, a refill station selling eco-friendly, household refill products, plus all you need to know about getting involved with green spaces in the local area, including a virtual reality headset to view 3D drone footage of the Brookside site in Oswaldtwistle.

A big thank you to everyone who has supported and attended EcoFest over the last few years, your enthusiasm, energy and commitment to a greener community is what makes EcoFest so special! However, in 2026 we're doing things a bit differently and we'll be out and about across Hyndburn, popping up at a range of events and activities as part of our Prospects Roadshow. Look out for us at shows, fetes, carnivals and other events, showcasing our work and letting you know how you can get involved in making our environment cleaner, greener and more accessible for everyone. We're really excited to be bringing the themes of EcoFest to other locations around the borough and engaging with more communities. Please keep an eye on our website and social media channels for updates on where you can find us in 2026.





The Windfall Fund is the community benefit fund established from the proceeds from Hyndburn windfarm on Oswaldtwistle Moor. The fund was set up in April 2013 and is provided by EnergieKontor, the windfarm operator. The fund is administered by the Prospects Foundation and provides grants for community environmental projects in Hyndburn.

During the 2025/26 year we received 28 Windfall Fund applications, which resulted in 23 groups being awarded funding totalling £154,730. We awarded 17 mini grants (£13,665), 4 small grants (£14,170) and 6 large grants (£126,895). In terms of our sustainability themes, 7 grants were for improving biodiversity (£65,728), 5 grants were for energy saving (£73,176), 10 grants were for environmental awareness (£6,850), 5 grants were for local food (£7,976) and 1 grant was for waste and recycling (£1,000).



## ENERGY SAVING

**Adventure Hyndburn** – £5,000  
LED lighting and motion sensors for the Park Child and Family Centre

**Ernest Street Baptist Chapel** – £12,750  
Energy efficient boiler with heating zone controls

**Great Harwood Golf and Social Club** – £30,000  
30 kW solar photovoltaic system and 2 x 20 kW batteries

**Hyndburn Voluntary and Community Resource Centre** – £24,706  
15.48 kW solar photovoltaic system, 2 x 5.8 kW batteries, LED lighting and smart thermostatic radiator valves

**Community Rail Lancashire** – £720  
Solar Explorer kits

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

**Adventure Hyndburn** – £820  
2 gates to secure the boundary at Rothwell Heights Forest School

**Rotary Club of Church and Oswaldtwistle** – £660  
Trout in the Classroom project at St Paul's Primary School, Oswaldtwistle

**Friends of Hippings School** – £125  
Coach travel to Ribble Rivers Trust water table event

**Friends of Memorial Park** – £550  
Bird box webcam with 24-month internet connection and router

**Intack Primary School PTFA** – £395  
Coach travel for nursery children to visit Brookside

**Lancashire Schools Sustainability Forum** – £750  
Sponsored packages for 5 Hyndburn secondary schools to attend the 2026 NW Schools Sustainability Conference

**Ribble Rivers Trust** – £990  
Trout in the Classroom hub at Haworth Art Gallery and sessions with Peel Park Primary School and St Anne's and St Joseph's Primary School

**St Hubert's Eco Club, Great Harwood** – £560  
Work on playground Eco Huts (cob covering, wood panelling, paint and plants)

**The Prospects Foundation** – £1,000  
Towards EcoFest 2025

**The Prospects Foundation** – £1,000  
Smoothie bike and promotional materials for the 2026 Prospects Foundation Roadshow

## BIODIVERSITY

**Lancashire Wildlife Trust** – £10,006  
Path improvements and woodland management at Foxhill Bank Local Nature Reserve

**Rishton Prospects Panel** – £3,634  
Creation of a new wildflower meadow in Cutwood Park

**The Prospects Foundation** – £25,000  
Brookside Restoration Initiative transition phase

**The Prospects Foundation** – £24,433  
12-month extension of the Hyndburn's Nature Reserves project

**Accrington Cricket and Tennis Club** – £1,000  
Creation of a new wildflower meadow area next to the cricket pitch

**Friends of Arden Hall and the Coppice** – £830  
Pleck Meadow cut and bench replacement

**Friends of Jackhouse Nature Reserve** – £825  
Bench repair and Himalayan Balsam clearance

## LOCAL FOOD

**Friends of Hippings School** – £3,700  
Polytunnel and gardening equipment

**The Prospects Foundation** – £1,836  
Legal fees for extension of Piggy Park Community Garden lease

**Hyndburn and Ribble Valley CVS** – £1,000  
Gardening equipment for Adventure Hyndburn allotment

**Oswaldtwistle St Paul's Primary School PTFA** – £800  
Seeds, plants and garden tools for food growing

**St Wulstan's Primary School PTFA** – £640  
Raised beds, wooden troughs and peat free soil for food growing

## WASTE AND RECYCLING

**The Greater Good Project** – £1,000  
8 community art sessions using recycled materials

Since starting in 2013, the Windfall Fund has funded a total of 293 projects to 122 different groups with grants totalling £1,292,484. We would like to thank EnergieKontor, the funder of the Windfall Fund, for making all of these projects possible. We're looking forward to seeing what applications we receive in the next year!

If you'd like to find out more about the Windfall Fund, including advice on how to apply and what types of projects are eligible, please contact the Windfall Fund Co-ordinator, Gemma McMullan: [gemma.mcmullan@prospectsfoundation.org.uk](mailto:gemma.mcmullan@prospectsfoundation.org.uk)

# The Prospects Panels

## Rishton Prospects Panel

As in previous years Rishton Prospects Panel continues to improve their locality and endeavours to raise awareness of environmental issues.

In June they planted hundreds of summer bedding plants kindly donated by Nurture Landscaping of Rishton, to whom they are very grateful, as without their generosity Rishton would not look so colourful. These were planted in the planters on the platforms at Rishton Station, in the bed at the canal bridge on High Street and also around Cooper's clock in the grassed area on Hermitage Street along with various planters around the village.

In October the Panel helped Hyndburn Borough Council Parks Department to facilitate the wildflower meadow in Cutwood Park thanks to the Panel receiving a grant from the Windfall Fund. Members of the Panel joined local schoolchildren to scatter wildflower seeds, which over the next few years will provide food for bees, butterflies and other pollinators as well as providing a lovely backdrop to the view across the park.

In November, the Panel held a working party around the Library where they planted over 200 daffodil bulbs on the corner of High Street and Commercial Street. They also carried out a litter pick around the area filling several bags with discarded cans, bottles and other rubbish.

The Panel has a food growing area with raised beds at Rishton Station. These are free to anyone wanting to try their hand at growing vegetables. If you're interested, please don't hesitate to get in touch via the Prospects Foundation ([info@prospectsfoundation.org.uk](mailto:info@prospectsfoundation.org.uk)).

The Panel is also happy to welcome anyone who would like to help out when they arrange working parties which are always advertised on Facebook.



## Baxenden Community Forum

Last year the Baxenden Community Forum consciously decided to move away from summer bedding in the planters by planting perennials, but whilst some plants have thrived, others are not happy, so they'll monitor what works best for attracting pollinators whilst still providing a colourful display.

The roses do require quite regular maintenance but still provide a beautiful backdrop in the garden at Haworth Art Gallery. The Forum is in discussions with the Council and the Gallery about whether the damaged arches should be replaced.

The PALS mosaics have deteriorated further and it has been a frustrating time finding someone with expertise and knowledge, as the work needed to repair them is critical to them being saved.

When the Forum is working to maintain these small areas of Baxenden, residents always compliment the work being done, and the Forum members always give people information about how they can help and get involved with Prospects.

Baxenden Forum has sadly lost a couple of stalwarts this year, Ken Rishton, who was a willing volunteer and very knowledgeable about roses, and Bill Matthews, the Forum's previous Chair, who was well known through his work for Prospects.

The Forum is always looking to recruit new volunteers. If anyone would like to find out more, or if people have any ideas they would like the Forum to look at, they are welcome to come to the Forum's monthly meetings, now at 4.15pm in the Alma Pub on Manchester Road, Baxenden, on the fourth Monday of each month. You can also contact the Forum via: [info@prospectsfoundation.org.uk](mailto:info@prospectsfoundation.org.uk)



## Huncoat Community Forum

Spout House woodland continues to flourish with an increase in wildlife, birds, fauna and flora. The Forum is awaiting the delivery of over 30 bird and bat boxes to be placed around the area. A great team of volunteers work tirelessly tending to the many planters around the village, litter picking and looking after the Peace Garden and train station. The Peace Garden is having a makeover and being replenished with plants and flowers. The Forum meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the Griffin Pub on Burnley Road, Huncoat. You can also contact the Forum via: [info@prospectsfoundation.org.uk](mailto:info@prospectsfoundation.org.uk)



## Clayton-le-Moors with Altham Prospects Panel

The Clayton-le-Moors with Altham Prospects Panel continues to undertake work looking after the 'Millennium Baby Woodland', off Burnley Road (A678), which involves litter picks, planting saplings, re-installing 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 brush pads from the removed branches and twigs to encourage wildlife. This year the panel has created a link between the footpath that crosses the centre of the site and the footpath adjacent to Burnley Road. They have also planted additional saplings to replace those trees which have been removed. They have also removed Himalayan Balsam from the woodlands off Warwick Avenue adjacent to Wilson's Playing fields.

Together with Hyndburn Borough Council the Panel has submitted a bid to the Lancashire Environmental Fund for funds to improve play equipment at the Burnley Road recreation ground. A decision on whether they are successful will be taken in June.

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.

They are happy to welcome new members to the Panel and anyone interested in joining can email Paul Worswick: [paulworswick1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paulworswick1@hotmail.co.uk)



# Woody (Hyndburn) CIC

Woody (Hyndburn) CIC is a woodland management social enterprise set up by Prospects in 2012 to help pro-actively manage woodlands in Hyndburn. Woody continues to support the Prospects Foundation's project work on the various sites and works closely with Hyndburn Borough Council as a community enterprise contractor for woodland management and habitat products. Woody generates income from contract fees and sales of product.

As is often the case, the felling contracts carried out for Hyndburn Borough Council turned out to be more extensive and time consuming than originally specified. Woody did 278 volunteer days on 48 work-days. The main jobs for the winter were ash die-back felling contracts for the Council at Miller Fold and Hollins Woodland and further unexpected larch thinning at Hollins. In March this year, Woody carried out extra ash die-back felling at Brookside to create an 'assembly area' to Alice's requirements, where they will be building four new benches in April.

Woody completed replacement planting at Miller Fold and Bullough Park for Hyndburn Borough Council. At Hollins, Woody funded and planted 500 trees in memory of Mike Stapleford, the Prospects Foundation's former Charity Manager and Woody volunteer, who sadly died in 2021. This should complete the transformation of that woodland to broadleaves, with an extensive area of hazel coppice for future cropping.

Other jobs included:

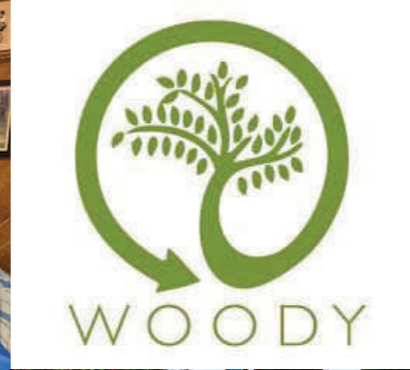
- Attending EcoFest and helping members of the public make over 40 free bird nest boxes
- Bird box kit making for Proffitts CIC for a project running in Bolton
- Extracting 40 loads of firewood and product (approximately 80 tonnes)
- A day felling ash die-back at Coach Road for the Prospects Foundation
- Supplying an order of sawn larch to Burnley Borough Council for the rebuilding of picnic tables at Towneley Park

- Logosol wood processing of larch for bird boxes, benches, tables, signs and way-marker posts
- Installation of a bench at Hollins Wood made for Woody by Rick Goodwin, chainsaw carver extraordinaire, in memory of Mike Stapleford. The bench was made from the felled larch at Hollins. Mike was particularly fond of badgers so that was the theme for Rick to work with. The bench has become a landmark at Hollins and proved something of a phenomenon on social media
- Clearing back of undergrowth at Miller Fold and Hollins to make footpaths more user friendly
- Deer exclosures at Miller Fold to encourage natural regeneration
- Balsam control and bench repairs at Jackhouse Nature Reserve for the Friends of Jackhouse
- Making tawny owl boxes
- Installation of backs on 2 benches installed at Woodhook Vale last year
- Coppicing of over-stood hazel stools at Hollins

Assisted felling training was provided for four volunteers in October and Woody invested in special equipment to assist with this. This will enable the felling of particularly difficult trees with ropes, pulleys, slings and a hand winch.

Chainsaw training and assessment was provided for two volunteers and first aid training was provided for four volunteers.

Once again Woody ended the year with a healthy bank balance. Woody is remarkable, as a Community Interest Company – a social business – for being financially self-sufficient in income from contract work and sales – without recourse to grants. Woody aims to invest in people's skills and contribute funding to projects from its own resources, thus recycling funds back into the local environment and communities. This is entirely due to the goodwill, time and personal resources given by its directors and volunteers.





# Coach Road Solar Meadow

Since the major milestone of planning permission for the solar meadow was granted in 2024, Prospects Community Energy Ltd (PCE) has been working with partners to achieve the build-out of the project. There is still a little way to go yet but we are still hoping for a build-out in 2027. This will be a significant community energy project generating the equivalent of about 400 homes-worth of green electricity and making a significant contribution to Hyndburn's carbon reduction. It will be a major step forward for PCE and of course for the Prospects Foundation, who will receive significant rent for the site and thus extra income to use for its charitable aims. Watch the Prospects Foundation's website for further news



**prospects  
community  
energy**

# Finances

The Prospects Foundation's full annual accounts can be downloaded from the 'Reports' section on the 'About Us' page on our website at [www.prospectsfoundation.org.uk](http://www.prospectsfoundation.org.uk) – or paper copies are available from the Environment Centre at 54 Broadway, Accrington.

## Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations	1,070	0	1,070	325	0	325
Charitable activities	0	287,555	287,555	0	432,061	432,061
Investment income	9,224	3,860	13,084	8,955	3,102	12,057
Other income	30,102	26,527	56,629	24,034	18,124	42,158
<b>Total income</b>	<b>40,396</b>	<b>317,942</b>	<b>358,338</b>	<b>33,314</b>	<b>453,287</b>	<b>486,601</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities	(27,624)	(432,236)	(459,860)	(29,835)	(414,712)	(444,547)
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>(27,624)</b>	<b>(432,236)</b>	<b>(459,860)</b>	<b>(29,835)</b>	<b>(414,712)</b>	<b>(444,547)</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>12,772</b>	<b>114,294</b>	<b>(101,522)</b>	<b>3,479</b>	<b>38,575</b>	<b>42,054</b>
Transfers between funds	(11,746)	11,746	0	1,000	(1,000)	0
Net movement in funds	1,026	(102,548)	(101,522)	4,479	37,575	42,054
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward	139,384	356,083	495,467	134,905	318,508	453,413
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>140,410</b>	<b>253,535</b>	<b>393,945</b>	<b>139,384</b>	<b>356,083</b>	<b>495,467</b>

## Balance sheet as at 31st October 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Fixed assets:</b>		
Tangible assets	15,000	15,000
<b>Current assets:</b>		
Debtors	0	9,762
Cash at bank and in hand	401,255	677,721
	<b>401,255</b>	<b>687,483</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>(22,310)</b>	<b>(207,016)</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>378,945</b>	<b>480,467</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>393,945</b>	<b>495,467</b>
<b>Funds of the charity:</b>		
<b>Restricted income funds</b>		
Restricted funds	253,535	356,083
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>		
Unrestricted funds	140,410	139,384
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>393,945</b>	<b>495,467</b>



# Who We Are



## Charity trustees:

**Paul Worswick** Co-Chair  
**Mark Hopley** Co-Chair  
**Phil Barwood** Vice-Chair  
**Nick Cort** Treasurer  
**Margaret Worden** Secretary  
**Roger Cunliffe**  
**Dave Daly**  
**Cath Holmes**  
**Jeff Scales**  
**Stephen Hemingway**  
**Gaynor Hargreaves**  
 (Lancashire County Council representative)  
**Stephen Button**  
 (Hyndburn Borough Council representative)



## Officers:

**Alison Silver**  
 Charity Manager  
**Gemma McMullan**  
 Charity Assistant Manager and  
 Windfall Fund Co-ordinator  
**Robert Gabryszak**  
 Local Nature Reserve Officer  
**Helen Earnshaw**  
 Community TreeACTION Officer  
**Brandon Cherry**  
 Hyndburn Woodlands Officer  
**Alice Pooley**  
 Brookside Restoration Officer  
**Stephen Hutchinson**  
 Low Carbon Community Buildings Officer  
 (until May 2025)  
**Sonja Bottomer**  
 Outdoor Learning Officer (until July 2025)



## Keep in touch:

**Telephone:** 01254 230348  
**Email:** [info@prospectsfoundation.org.uk](mailto:info@prospectsfoundation.org.uk)  
**Website:** [www.prospectsfoundation.org.uk](http://www.prospectsfoundation.org.uk)

## Company details:

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

**Auditors:**  
 KM Accountants, 1st Floor, Block C, The Wharf,  
 Manchester Road, Burnley, BB11 1JG

**Registered Office:**  
 54 Broadway, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 1EW

## Find us online:

[ProspectsFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ProspectsFoundation)  
[@prospectsfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/prospectsfoundation)  
[@Prospects1998](https://twitter.com/Prospects1998)  
[@prospectsfoundation.org.uk](http://prospectsfoundation.org.uk)

# Looking Forward

Future plans for the Prospects Foundation include:

- Securing funding to continue existing projects and new programmes of work, including long term funding for the Brookside project and funding for a new local food growing project.
- Undertaking consultation with the local community to help influence current and future programmes, projects and activities.
- Ensuring climate change is at the core of our decisions and activities, particularly in response to new project ideas and the Action Plan associated with the new 5-year Development Plan.
- Maintaining and developing good relationships with partner organisations to further the aims of the charity and to ensure climate change is on the wider agenda throughout Hyndburn.
- Working closely with Prospects Community Energy to assist with the development of the solar meadow at Coach Road.
- Working closely with Hyndburn Borough Council and trustees regarding the plans for Local Government Reorganisation and the impact on the Foundation.
- Supporting more local environmental projects through the Windfall Fund, including low carbon building measures.
- Carrying out a formal, consultant-led mid-term evaluation of the Windfall Fund.
- Improving facilities at our Environment Centre and at our training centre in Oakhill Park.
- Reviewing the suitability of our current premises for the needs of the charity's activities.
- Creating a training programme for trustees and staff including Carbon Literacy training.
- Increasing the Prospects Foundation's membership and reviewing the benefits we can offer to members.
- Continuing the closer working with the Prospects Panels, including recruiting more members and re-establishing Prospects panels in Church, Accrington, Oswaldtwistle and Great Harwood.
- Developing our new allotment site at Growing Wild in Baxenden and continuing to improve facilities at the Community Tree Nursery at Miller Fold.
- Continuing to develop and promote our refill shop, to help people reduce single use plastic, and considering the introduction of wholefood products such as rice and lentils.
- Assessing the impact of the Prospects 2026 Roadshow in helping to promote our work across the different townships in the borough.

## With grateful thanks to our funders and supporters:



# PROSPECTS

HYNDBURN'S COMMUNITY-OWNED  
ENVIRONMENTAL CHARITY

Registered charity number: 1076541

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



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The Prospects Foundation

