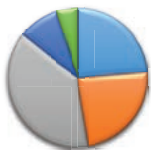


## STATISTICS

In 2013/2014 21 projects were funded – 2 Mini projects, 10 Small projects, and 9 Large projects.



The pie chart shows the proportion of projects funded under each theme.

Last year Local Food was the most popular theme but this year it is Raising Environmental Awareness. No projects were funded under the Sustainable Transport theme.

The projects have been carried out in the following locations:

|               |   |          |   |
|---------------|---|----------|---|
| Accrington    | 3 | Church   | 1 |
| Hyndburn-wide | 2 | Huncoat  | 2 |
| Oswaldtwistle | 7 | Baxenden | 4 |
| Great Harwood | 2 |          |   |

The total amount of grant awarded in 2013/2014 was £88,217.



The pie chart shows the proportion of themes supported by amount of funding. Two themes – Raising Environmental Awareness and Increasing Biodiversity have taken up 83% of the funding

In total match funding of approximately £123,000 was secured by groups during the second year of the Windfall Fund, more than doubling the value of the grants awarded. In total, since the start of the scheme and taking into account the match funding, projects have been undertaken in Hyndburn worth over £422,000.

A review of the Fund was carried out during 2014 to look at progress and options for the future. The results of survey monkey questionnaires and feedback from applicants were very positive. Some of the comments/results can be seen below:

- 95% applicants were very satisfied/satisfied with how long it took between applying for and receiving the grant money
- 90% applicants were pleased with the amount of help and advice received during the application process
- Comments included 'the application form is easy to fill in and is well laid out with clear and straight forward questions'

PROSPECTS staff have worked with 20 of the 37 projects funded and this has been seen as a very valuable part of the scheme overall.

Numbers of Projects Funded by Type of Applicant



Legend for Numbers of Projects Funded by Type of Applicant:

- Ethnic Minority
- Young People
- Education
- Community Enterprise
- Environmental
- Other

## HYNDBURN WIND FARM FACTS & FIGURES

People have used wind energy for a very long time – the first windmills were built over 5,000 years ago. The UK is the windiest country in Europe and Hyndburn is now making the most of this free, renewable source of energy. Hyndburn wind farm has been exporting renewable energy since October 2012 and has generated over 160gWh of electricity in the first two years, which equates to supplying 18,500 homes with energy, or the equivalent to half the homes in Hyndburn.

The turbines are 122m high from bottom to tip of blade and each turbine weighs 238 tonnes – the same as 35 African elephants!



The moorland restoration management plan, which accompanied the building of the turbines, consisted of re-wetting and bare peat restoration measures, which both regulate and retain water within the moorland and re-vegetate the moorland with target plant species.

In particular, the following restoration measures have been carried out:

- Peat translocation across the moor
- Re-profiling of existing gullies and drip edges to decrease the speed of water flow to minimise peat erosion
- Use of 'Geojute' and/or coir rolls to allow vegetation to grow quickly and stabilise the peat
- Introduction of grip blocking to help manage water flow and improve ability of peat to hold water
- Extensive introduction of heather brush to increase absorption levels across expansive peat areas
- Selective removal of rush vegetation to increase peat stability
- Use of floating tracks and hard standings in areas where peat cannot be avoided

The breeding birds found on the moorland, where the turbines are situated, are considered to be of County conservation value. Skylark, reed bunting and meadow pipit numbers have increased substantially between 2013 and 2014 and golden plover and curlew territories have also shown an increase.

## VISITS TO THE WIND FARM

In the summer of 2014 we took 4 school parties to the wind farm in association with EnergieKontor. Huncoat Primary School, St Mary's Primary School in Oswaldtwistle and Broadfield Specialist School all took advantage of these trips and learnt lots about renewable energy and the wind turbines themselves.



We are hoping to run more trips in the next financial year and already have schools/groups booked in.



Educational material is provided to the schools in advance so they can incorporate the work into the curriculum. The school groups this year tried to estimate how many people, linking arms, it would take to fit round the base of one of the turbines and then walked onto the moorland to see the moorland restoration work that has been carried out.

## THE WINDFALL FUND

The Windfall Fund was set up from the proceeds from the wind farm on Oswaldtwistle Moor. It is a community benefit fund that is being provided by EnergieKontor, the wind farm developer and is being managed by the PROSPECTS Foundation. The overall aim of the Windfall Fund is to help communities in Hyndburn understand the issues around environmental sustainability. Voluntary sector organisations are eligible to apply for a grant to carry out community led environmental projects that fit into one of PROSPECTS' 6 themes.

**BIODIVERSITY** – protecting and enhancing local wildlife and plant life

**ENERGY** – promoting energy conservation and the use of renewable energy

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

**WASTE & RECYCLING** – identifying more ways of reducing, reusing and recycling waste

**LOCAL FOOD** – increasing the production of locally grown organic food

**ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS** – raising awareness of environmental issues, promoting environmental projects and the work of PROSPECTS itself

Since the Fund was launched 37 projects have been funded totalling grants of £182,429 and the total match funding over the first two years ie. money brought in by applicants to complement their Windfall grants is approximately £233,000 which more than doubles the value of the Fund.

The Windfall Fund brings together all aspects of PROSPECTS' work and successful projects have benefitted from the help of all PROSPECTS staff in their delivery.

The Fund has been well received and provides a good model for future working. An evaluation has been undertaken of the Fund after the first two years of operation looking at progress and achievements and options for the future.

This annual report highlights some of the great achievements and fabulous work that has been undertaken throughout the Borough of Hyndburn during 2013/2014.

## LIST OF PROJECTS FUNDED DURING 2013/2014

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Sandy Lane Gardening Group               | £511.00    |
| Aawaz                                    | £825.00    |
| St Paul's Barnfield Scout Group          | £2,000.00  |
| Friends of St Paul's                     | £2,000.00  |
| Community Solutions North West           | £1,951.00  |
| Friends of Huncoat School                | £1,370.00  |
| Growing Wild                             | £2,000.00  |
| Church & Oswaldtwistle Cricket Club      | £2,100.00  |
| Baxenden Community Forum                 | £7,500.00  |
| The Churchfield House Trust              | £2,900.00  |
| Newground CIC                            | £4,383.00  |
| The PROSPECTS Foundation                 | £15,682.00 |
| 1st Oswaldtwistle St Paul's Scout Group  | £2,000.00  |
| Friends of St Christopher's              | £13,301.00 |
| St Anne's and St Joseph's Friends United | £1,760.00  |
| Lancashire Wildlife Trust                | £4,898.00  |
| Acorn Steiner Initiative                 | £1,991.00  |
| Friends of Jackhouse Nature Reserve      | £17,612.00 |
| The Duckling Club                        | £3,251.00  |
| Clean & Green Recovery                   | £100.00    |
| Growing Wild                             | £82.00     |

**TOTAL £88,217.00**



# WINDFALL ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014



PROSPECTS Environment Centre

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# BIODIVERSITY

5 PROJECTS FUNDED WITH GRANTS TOTTALLING £34,223

**Lancashire Wildlife Trust** received a grant to improve the biodiversity of Foxhill Bank Nature Reserve in Oswaldtwistle through appropriate management of the woodland and grassland areas and also to improve the access to encourage more people into the Reserve to appreciate and learn about wildlife. The woodland had primarily developed into 'high canopy' and there was a need to coppice one small area of tall spindly willow trees which had little wildlife value and which were shading out the smaller trees and ground flora.



The existing meadows needed cutting and raking and there was the potential to create new areas. A section of the reserve was worked on for the first time in many years with the support of the local Scout Group and one of the most popular paths was surfaced for the first time to improve the access for visitors.



A small play area in West End is also benefitting from the Windfall Fund. **Newground CIC** was successful in securing a grant to embellish the renovation of the play area with native tree, shrub and wildflower planting. The project was originally initiated by a local teenager who wanted to improve the condition of the play area for younger children. The planting will help to naturalise the area and help to screen it from the busy main road. Local children will be involved with the actual planting and will hopefully help to maintain it afterwards.

**St Anne's and St Joseph's Primary School** have a fabulous piece of land behind their playground of almost 3 Hectares consisting mainly of species-poor neutral grassland but with patches of marshy grassland, acidic grassland and more species-rich neutral grassland, a hedgerow, scattered trees and scrub, broadleaved woodland and running water. The school wants to use the field for environmental education including food growing. The first thing the school did after receiving the grant was to enlist the help of Lancashire Wildlife Trust who conducted a habitat/wildlife survey of the field and came up with recommendations for its future management. The school now intends to plant a small area of woodland with native tree species and install 3 raised beds for food growing.

The **PROSPECTS Foundation** secured funding for a year-long nature conservation project. The project consisted of two parts – firstly the continued organisation, support and management of the successful Conservation Group which meets every Monday and carries out work at Peel Park/Coppice and Woodnook Vale. Secondly, the setting up and running of a new Environmental Task Force or Green Team that will work on practical environmental sites/projects across the whole of Hyndburn one day a week. This group primarily targeted volunteers from disadvantaged groups associated with for example the Job Centre, Red Rose Recovery and students from Accrington and Rossendale College.



**Baxenden Community Forum** received a Windfall grant with match funding from BIFFA to improve the footpath network in Hollins Wood. The difference the path work has made is amazing as the woodland can now be safely accessed all year. A display showing the work in progress will be available in Haworth Art gallery later in the year.

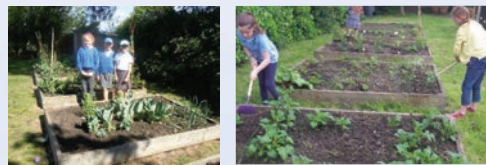
# LOCAL FOOD

5 PROJECTS FUNDED WITH GRANTS TOTTALLING £7881

The Queen's Award winning **Sandy Lane Gardening Group** continued their excellent work at a learning disability project at Pendle View in Huncoot by installing a chicken coop and covered run for 4-5 chickens. The chickens are therapeutic for the residents and are looked after by one of the service users. They also provide eggs which contribute to the soft textured diet required by all the residents. The chickens are fed with waste from the vegetable garden and the chicken waste is recycled back into the garden.



**Friends of Huncoot Primary School** worked hard to establish a food growing area and community orchard in their school grounds. They built 8 raised beds and grew a wide variety of fruit and vegetables including strawberries, tomatoes, potatoes and cabbages. The children from all classes were involved in the project and they were delighted to learn they could even eat nasturtium flowers!



6 PROJECTS FUNDED WITH GRANTS TOTTALLING £38,980

The **Friends of Jackhouse Nature Reserve** successfully secured a grant to improve the footpaths and footpath network at Jackhouse Nature Reserve to complement a Forestry Commission funded programme of works. The new paths will encourage more local people to use the site and gain a better understanding of the wildlife of the area.



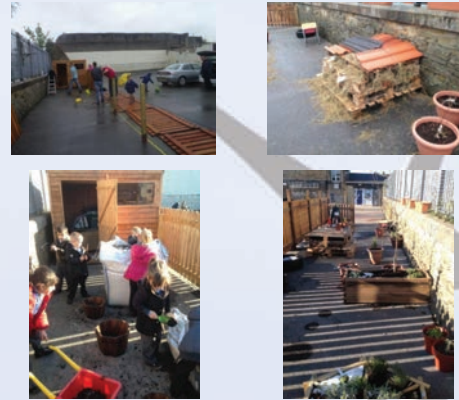
**Aawaz** works with South Asian and Eastern European women and families and it received a grant to run an environmental awareness programme to promote a better understanding of sustainability and environmental issues. The project introduced key ideas such as saving energy, recycling, growing herbs and also included visits to Foxhill Bank Nature Reserve and a local community garden at Huncoot.



A total of 45 women took part in the project and feedback from the participants included: 'I enjoyed trying the herbs from the garden, they taste so much better than the ones from the shop' and 'I did not realise there was such a beautiful place as the Nature Reserve near where I live.'

**St Paul's Barnfield Scouts** and **1st Oswaldtwistle St Paul's Scout Group** were both successful in securing a Windfall grant to develop allotment plots to enable the Scouts to learn about food growing, healthy eating and sustainability. The allotment plots at Ley Farm in Baxenden and Heys in Oswaldtwistle are being developed with raised beds, compost bins and water butts. The Scouts will increase their environmental awareness through activities and badge work.

**Friends of St Paul's Primary School, Oswaldtwistle** secured a grant for an ambitious project to design and develop an eco-space in their otherwise barren playground. The project includes food growing, rain water collection and composting and the parents and children have worked hard to create a very welcoming learning environment. They have been helped by Julie Livesey, one of PROSPECTS' own Community Food Growing Officers who has run workshops with a number of classes and helped parents with the construction of the fence and raised beds.



# RAISING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

**Growing Wild** is a new community group that has gone from strength to strength. It has taken on the lease of an allotment site in Baxenden where it has built raised beds to grow food and has run family Forest School activities which encourage exploration and contact with nature for both parents and children. Activities have included stream dipping, bug hunting, fire building and den building. In the summer the group received some help from the Princes Trust whose volunteers built bug hotels, steps and a seating area.



**Acorn Steiner Initiative** is a local educational charity that offers Early Years sessions for parents and children with a strong vein of environmental awareness built into the sessions.



The Windfall grant has been used to adapt the garden space at their new premises at Bowley Scout Camp in Great Harwood to make it safe to run outdoor nursery sessions and activities to allow children the freedom to explore and learn the importance and value of the natural world. The project has the use of an existing green house and the funding has secured a new hedgerow, two raised beds, bird boxes and bug houses, a compost bin, water butt and more!

The **Duckling Club** is a registered charity run from Fairfield Children's Centre to support disadvantaged children and families. The Windfall grant is to develop a Forest School at Fairfield Children's centre as a long term sustainable approach to outdoor learning. Forest School is an inspirational process that allows children to achieve small measured tasks and so builds up self-confidence and self-esteem while discovering the joy of being outdoors. Activities that will be undertaken include cooking on a campfire, whittling wood and building shelters.

# ENERGY

2 PROJECTS FUNDED WITH GRANTS TOTTALLING £5,000

**Church & Oswaldtwistle Cricket Club** used the Windfall Fund to install a double glazed window, an energy efficient boiler and roof insulation at the club house to cut down on energy usage and reduce energy bills. It is estimated that the installation of the new boiler will result in a 50% reduction in heating bills and will reduce environmental emissions and improve the Club's carbon footprint.



# WASTE & RECYCLING

1 PROJECT FUNDED WITH A GRANT OF £1,951

**Community Solutions North West** received a grant to extend their Community Re-Paint Scheme into Hyndburn. The scheme takes in unwanted paint, cleans it up and mixes it and then supplies it to individuals, families, communities and charities in need. The scheme has saved 1,850 litres of paint from going to landfill in the last year. Volunteers are trained to prepare the paint pots ready for supplying to the public and they also make up painting starter kits including brushes, rollers, paint and cleaning cloths. This recycled paint has been used to paint the walls at the Community Garden behind the Resource Centre in Accrington, at Churchfield House in Great Harwood and to spruce up some garages owned by Hyndburn Homes.

The **Friends of St Christopher's** successfully secured a grant for the Hyndburn Schools Growing Together project to appoint an officer to develop the Eco-Cluster Group with all schools within Hyndburn, share and replicate good ideas and develop new ideas around food growing and environmental sustainability. The Eco-Cluster Group meets every half term and is open to all schools within the Borough. The idea is to share good practice and encourage schools to embrace environmental education in a very practical way. The officers appointed (as a job share) can offer their time and expertise to schools in return for a contribution to the project. So far they have worked with 12 different schools on a range of activities including composting workshops, fruit tree planting, making willow wreaths and seed sowing.



The other part of the project is to build on the experience and reputation of St Christopher's High School as a leader in the field of sustainability and to deliver a high quality, innovative and creative package of environmental education through food growing and other eco experiences. The project will also provide training for teachers, improve the outdoor infrastructure and use eco-friendly activities to engage children with emotional and behavioural difficulties.



The polytunnel at St Christopher's has been given a re-vamp and is used on a daily basis by the pupils as an alternative to morning registration and to enthuse students for the rest of the day. Food growing activities are carried out and the polytunnel even hosted the school's Mass!