Chair's Report given at the annual meeting of the Friends of Jackhouse Nature Reserve

14 May 2026

Ruth Lavis, Chair, thanked the Friends of Rhyddings Park for allowing us to use their facilities for this meeting and for their continuing support.

Key events from the year

1. Early June 2025 to end August 2025 Lindsey raised concerns about Japanese Knot Weed on Broadfield including detailed descriptions, w3w addresses and photographs. Lancashire County Highways service have added these areas to their list for annual treatments and have notified their verge cutting contractors to avoid them. Treatment takes up to five years.
2. In May we started our regular balsam bashing sessions fortnightly on Saturday mornings until the end of August. Sadly we had very few attendees for this. But we still cleared a lot of the infestation and kept the majority of the reserve completely balsam free.
3. June: Neighbourhood police responded to residents' concerns over gatherings the end of school exams with patrols throughout the four days, deterring large groups of young people already drinking alcohol from entering the nature reserve/confiscating their alcohol. A very successful partnership and we have already approached the police to request their support again this year.
4. June 2025: Hyndburn Council repaired the road surface leading to disabled parking bay. Disabled parking sign vandalised.
5. June 2025 - Oswaldtwistle Photography Club offered to support our work by using their photographic skills. Craig is now an admin on our Facebook page.
6. July 2025: grant to fund the repair of the bench and 2 days balsam clearance.
7. August 2025: Moth Morning on Saturday 2nd August
8. August/Sept 2025: annual wildflower mowing.
9. Sept 2025: report back from East Lancs Ornithologist Club regarding recommendations from ground-nest birds report.
    a. Artificial sand martin/kingfisher bank – ELOC highly recommend not doing this
    b. Bird boxes for pied flycatcher/redstart – sites identified and 10 boxes donated by North Lancs Training (Accrington) were installed by Prospects volunteers
    c. Tackling the heavily infested balsam slopes.
10. Sept 25: Sara expected the bollard and the disabled parking sign to be installed. Bollard was installed, but no sign of disabled parking sign or the new signage for the nature reserve.
11. November 2025: Thanks to the Ossie photographers' cards on the makingadifference charity ecard website.
12. March 2026: Toad watch.

13. In July 2025 balsam bashers unearthed the remains of an old brick structure, and what appeared to be disused pipework. Suggested that we make this a wetland scrape, a natural pond providing new habitat for amphibians, insects and other flora and fauna.
    Positives: providing more biodiversity. Reduce the amount of water, damaging trees and destroying footpaths. Contribute to Natural Flood Management.
14. March 2026: Applied for small projects grant to the Windfall Fund for this work including four days of intensive balsam removal, grant submission for £5000. Pleased to report UU have provided 25% marching funding £1500 towards the work (decision is due mid-May – we may know by the time of the agm).
15. Prospects have maintained regular volunteering sessions, held on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month, which Robert will talk more about in his update.
16. Newsletters – big thanks to Lindsey to regular newsletters.
17. Incidents – usual incidents: unofficial prom parties, camping, drinking, drug, motorbike, parking. Lack of enforcement on hay bale storage/damage to land off Haslingden Old Road. Vandalising the locks to the entrance gates.

FRIENDS OF JACKHOUSE ACCOUNTS 1 APRIL 2025 TO 31 MARCH 2026

Date	Details	Payments	Receipts	Balance
29/05/2025	Zurich Insurance	£100.00		
19/08/2025	Woody CIC bench repair and 2 days' balsam control	£825.00		
05/11/2025	Hyndburn Borough Council	£1,330.00		
	Bank interest		£10.30	
06/01/2026	Makeadifference cards		£15.00	
04/07/2025	Prospects Foundation Windfall Fund grant		£825.00	
31/03/2026	Grant from UU		£1,500.00	
		£2,255.00	£2,350.30	
01/04/2025	Balance brought forward			£1,628.79
31/03/2026	Balance carried forward			£1,724.09

FRIENDS OF JACKHOUSE ACCOUNTS 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025

Date	Details	Payments	Receipts	Balance
20/05/2024	Zurich Insurance	£157.00		
02/08/2024	Cuerden Valley Park donation for bat walk equipment	£60.00		
20/08/2024	Woody CIC payment for making and installing bird boxes	£770.00		
10/10/2024	Part payment meadow mow (Intake Mgnement)	£180.00		
	Bank interest		£20.42	
July/August	raffle income		£125.00	
29/07/2024	Oswaldtwistle Civic Society donation for bird boxes		£500.00	
30/05/2024	Windfall Fund grant (training and meadow mowing)		£834.00	
18/10/2024	Windfall Fund grant (robo mow)		£840.00	
01/04/2024	Balance brought forward			£476.37
31/03/2025	Balance carried forward			£1,628.79
		£1,167.00	£2,319.42	