

FRIENDS OF ST NICHOLAS FIELDS

England & Wales · Charity number 1153739

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2013-09-09

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: 1) TO PRESERVE AND CONSERVE THE AREA KNOWN AS ST. NICHOLAS FIELDS, INCLUDING THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF THE AREA, FOR THE BENEFIT AND EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC. 2) TO PROMOTE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION, PARTICULAR YOUTH EDUCATION, OF PERSONS RESIDENT IN YORK AND SURROUNDING AREAS IN THE PRINCIPLES AND BENEFITS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION ISSUES AND OF SUSTAINABILITY INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO RECYCLING AND WASTE REDUCTION. 3) TO PROMOTE THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC BY PROVIDING FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND LEISURE-TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE.

Activities: - To preserve and conserve the area known as St Nicholas Fields for the benefit and education of the public. - To educate the residents of York in principles and benefits of environmental and conservation issues and sustainability including recycling and waste reduction. - To provide facilities for residents with the aim of improving their conditions of life through social welfare and leisure

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** YORK AND SURROUNDING AREAS
- City Of York

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£789,347	£774,759	£445,562	17
2024-03-31	£655,526	£654,883	£430,974	15
2023-03-31	£582,172	£617,228	£430,331	15
2022-03-31	£577,865	£509,376	£465,387	12
2021-03-31	£350,287	£349,859	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Marina Lambrakis	Chair	2024-12-09
Emily Casey		2024-12-09
Emma Beddington		2022-01-18
Harrison Green		2024-12-09
James Sims		2022-12-05
Martin Crosby		2023-05-05
Samuel Thomas Crutchley		2024-02-21
Savannah Green		2022-12-05

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Accounts



Annual report 2024/25

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Message from the Chair of Trustees

As I write my final annual report as Chair of St Nicks, I want to reflect on what has been a really successful 2024–25 for us. St Nicks is a very special place, uniquely local with its foundations rooted in our thriving 24 acres of nature, but with a reputation for collaborative action and high-quality environmental service delivery that extends far, far further. This year we have seen St Nicks continue to thrive, despite long-standing sectoral challenges of rising costs and a shifting funding landscape. Our team and volunteers have once again shown ingenuity, resilience, and a deep commitment to our community.

Among the year's many achievements, several stand out. Our Green Corridors York programme continues to grow, with over 127 hectares of land worked for nature recovery and 5,000 tansy beetle food plants established to support one of York's most iconic species. The sighting of water voles at four new sites was a wonderful indicator of the difference our habitat work is making. The Big Community Challenge, involving over 500 volunteers across 33 sites, culminated in the launch of a floating ecosystem on the River Ouse, and represents an inspiring symbol of community-powered conservation.

Our Ecotherapy programme continues to transform lives. This year, participants recorded over 5,000 hours of engagement, and thanks to expanded capacity we were able to re-open to new referrals in January. With 95% of participants reporting that they feel more connected to others, it is clear that these nature-based interventions are making a profound difference to the wellbeing of our participants.

In waste minimisation, our recycling team collected and hand-sorted nearly 600 tonnes of business and residential recycling. We're proud to report a 0% contamination rate which is a testament to the team's care and professionalism. The opening of our new recycling garage has improved efficiency, reduced our energy use by 43%, and given us the space to plan for future growth, including the development of our Precious Plastic York project.

Our education work has also grown significantly. More than 330 children and young people engaged through Green Leaders activities, and 60% of our holiday club places were taken up by low-income families. These sessions are not only fun, but also positively build the knowledge, skills and confidence of the next generation, furthering their understanding of nature and the importance of caring for it.

These achievements have all been made possible by our dedicated staff, our tireless volunteers, and the support of funders, partners, and members. Together, you have ensured that St Nicks remains at the heart of York's innovative and inclusive environmental impact.

We were delighted to welcome Vicky Blakey-Archer as our new CEO in September 2024. Looking ahead, the Board recognises that investment in the development of our Environment Centre must now be a priority. To truly meet demand and expand our reach, we need a building that acknowledges how we have evolved as a charity over the past 25 years and provides the sustainable, accessible space our community deserves.

After seven rewarding years on the Board, I feel it is time to hand over the reins and have signalled my intention to step down at our next AGM in November 2025. With a 12-month lead in period to identify and welcome my successor, this should allow plenty of time for a smooth transition. It has been an honour to have had a shared sense of purpose with so many generous and committed people, and witness how our enthusiasm for why we do what we do at St Nicks helps shape such a positive and supportive culture across the organisation. I'm really proud of what we have achieved together, and grateful for being trusted to steer the organisation through a really exciting period in its history.

Thank you all for your unwavering support, and for making York a place where people and nature can flourish together.

Stuart Leslie
Chair of Trustees

CEO's report

I'm thrilled to be writing this as the new CEO of St Nicks. Having joined the organisation in September 2024, it has become apparent to me very quickly what a wonderful organisation St Nicks is. I'm fortunate to have taken on a charity with strong governance, clearly defined areas of operation and a team brimming with knowledge, skill and enthusiasm for what they do. What really stood out for me when joining St Nicks is the sheer volume and diversity of work that the team do, and the impact that this has on both people and planet. From installing the first floating ecosystem on the river Foss to our award-winning kerbside recycling collections and connecting people with nature to make real life changes to their wellbeing; I have been amazed at the level of innovation, integrity and commitment from the whole team.



I'm pleased to report another successful year for St Nicks. Despite another year of balancing inflated costs with challenging funding landscapes, we are reporting a further organisation growth. This growth is a reflection of the increase in demand for all of our areas of operation and has not been without challenge, requiring our teams to adapt, innovate and create to meet the need of our communities and habitats. The success of this is testament to the hard work and dedication of the entire St Nicks team of staff and volunteers.

Securing further funding from the National Lottery Community Fund Climate Action Fund has allowed us to further develop our Green Corridors work, as well as our involvement in the Yorkshire and Humber Policy Innovation Partnership demonstrating our expertise in partnership working.

Our building remains a constant challenge and the limitations on space is restricting further development for St Nicks. Looking forward to next year, this will form one of our key priorities, and we are keen to hear from potential partners who would be interested in supporting us with this.

Vicky Blakey-Archer
CEO

Our charity's purpose

St Nicks aims to:

- Preserve and conserve the area known as St Nicholas Fields, including the flora and fauna of the area, for the benefit and education of the public
- Promote the public education of persons resident in York and surrounding areas in principles and benefits of environmental and conservation issues and of sustainability including but not limited to recycling and waste reduction
- Promote the benefit of the public by providing facilities in the interests of social welfare and leisure time occupation with the object of improving their conditions of life

We work to meet these aims in the following ways:

Recycling and Waste Management

Our City Centre Recycling service has continued to perform well with strong, positive feedback from residents and customers alike. We collect residential recycling in line with our contract with City of York Council and commercial recycling provides much needed unrestricted income to the charity. Both business and residential recycling have grown this year, with expansions to the number of residential properties and commercial customers we collect from. We are excited to see what opportunities the Simpler Recycling reforms will bring for our team next year.

Nature-based Wellbeing

Our Ecotherapy Programme is a small mental health programme connecting people to nature to improve their well-being. Participants who join our programme have moderate to severe enduring mental ill health. However, when they join our community, they are a person first. That person has hopes, dreams, interests and skills, who happens to be living with mental health challenges. We work in a person-centred way that is warm and caring, flexible, inclusive and adopts a strengths-based approach.

At the heart of the programme is co-creation and we work very hard to ensure that the programme reflects what participants need but also what is needed across the city. We model this approach and have been asked to deliver training on it.

Participants who join our programme are invited to a group, for example Words from the Wild or Art Based Creative writing. Each group focusses on nature and uses the nature reserve. In addition, we offer 1:1 mentoring.

This mentoring enables someone attending the group to fully engage in the session, knowing that 1:1 support is separately available should they need it.

Further to the weekly groups, we also facilitate seasonal groups, drop-in sessions and one-off events e.g. World Mental Health Day and our Winter Solstice event. We were also pleased to continue to be a 'Warm Space' to support our community during the colder months.

Education

Our Holiday Clubs are funded by Holiday Activities and Food Fund and National Lottery Community Fund. These hugely popular holiday sessions engage families and young people in seasonal nature-based activities with the majority of uptake from families on low incomes. Each session includes a lunch cooked on the campfire and allows families to develop a deep nature connection. We have expanded our education offer this year to include Nature Tots, a group for parents and children aged 0-4.



Green corridors

St Nicks Local Nature Reserve (LNR) continues to develop as an important urban wildlife site and wellbeing and amenity resource for people. To further support the management, David Walker joined the LNR Team as Reserve and Maintenance Officer. David works with Eithne Phillips to support the Volunteer Park Rangers to ensure the nature reserve continues to thrive. He is also taking a lead on progressing infrastructure projects on site including footpaths, steps, benches and signage. Speaking of Park Rangers, it has been another successful year and a huge thanks to Cas, Siobhan, Charlotte and Izzy for their dedication and commitment to the voluntary roles. As ever, we are also indebted to the wide range of groups (Weekly conservation volunteers, Wildwatch group, St Nicks Ecotherapy group Bearing Fruit, Henshaw's, Danesgate, Student Action Group, business groups) who contribute to the continued development and success of the nature reserve.

This year saw major tree works take place after a professional tree survey revealed a number of trees were becoming a safety risk due their age and health. Several large willow trees were felled this winter by a contractor, and dozens of smaller trees were brought down by the LNR Team to decrease risk and at the same time improve the wildlife structure of the woodland.

Sessions Nature Reserve is a 2-hectare parcel of land along the River Foss off Haxby Road which we are now the proud owner of. The land was owned and managed by the Sessions Nature Reserve Trust from 1967 until 2024 when the family run Trust was wound down and transferred to the Friends of St Nicholas Fields. The land is part of an island which was

created when the river was canalized in the late 18th century to make it navigable. The island is between the current main Foss channel and the original 'old' river Foss channel and provides a vital wildlife refuge away from the more exposed sections of the river.



Green Corridors York continues to strive for “more, bigger, better and more joined up” green spaces and initiatives, conserving nature whilst supporting our communities. The Green Corridors Rivers and Floodplains project (funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund) continues to be successful in bringing communities and land managers together to improve the management of wildlife habitats along our rivers and becks. Improvements are beginning to make a positive difference to important riparian species such as Tansy beetle and water vole.

In April 2024 we started a new project focussing on Urban Green Corridors, thanks to funding from the National Lottery Community Fund Climate Action Fund. This project is being delivered in partnership with City of York Council and York Cares and applies our successful Green Corridors approach to number of urban corridors across York. A weekly Thursday afternoon session rotates around the urban corridors, examples of the work include creating new wildflower areas as part of York Walls in Bloom, developing the wildlife value of North Street Gardens including maintaining the floating ecosystem (see page 13), restoring grassland habitat on Foss Islands and Solar Systems greenways, creating new wildlife habitat across the Scarcroft area within the Micklegate Stray corridor and scythe training for York Museum Gardens, York Minster and Churches Conservation Trust to better manage their city centre land for wildlife.

Another new project for this year was our involvement in the Yorkshire and Humber Local Policy Innovation Partnership (YPIP). The UKRI-funded project builds on the existing multi-sectoral partnership working between academia, local government and community organisations in Yorkshire and the Humber across the 4 Mayoral Combined Authorities: York and North Yorkshire, Hull and East Riding, South, and West Yorkshire. Green Corridors York is a place-based demonstrator project for the Sustainable Living in a Greener Economy work package. We will be supported by work package partners (Stockholm Environment Institute, Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission, City of York Council, Green Estates Sheffield) to test and demonstrate the value of improved knowledge exchange in increasing nature recovery and use Wild York to demonstrate a model of community-connected nature recovery that may be adapted and applied in other communities. To enable us to deliver the expanded Green Corridors work we undertook a staff restructuring and recruitment phase, including the introduction of Senior Officer roles in the Green Corridors team.

Key achievements in 2024/25

Minimising waste

0% contamination rate so no materials are rejected by reprocessors and incinerated

587.2 tonnes of business and residential recycling collected and hand sorted

12 public recycling points maintained, as well as regular drop-in sessions at St Nicks

43% reduction in energy consumption for charging the electric recycling vehicles, now that they are stored at a consistent temperature in the new garage

17.36 kg of cheese packaging

23.66 kg of Taylors Tea packaging

42.06 kg of biscuit packaging

recycled as part of our “difficult to recycle” materials

12.64 tonnes of recycling collected in one week over Christmas (our average is 8!)

Ecotherapy

5,153 participant hours logged at Ecotherapy activities

83% of participants feel they need less help from elsewhere because they come to St Nicks

95% of participants feel more connected to other people

7 Ecotherapy groups held on a weekly basis

530 hours of 1:1 mentoring for mental health logged with participants

46 new referrals to our Ecotherapy service in 2024/25

5 additional Ecotherapy groups held on a seasonal basis

96 participants actively engaging in our Ecotherapy groups

10 Ecotherapy group trips held throughout the year



Education

337 children and young people attending our “Green Leaders” activities

52 educational groups and sessions held in 2024/25

60% of places at our holiday club places given to low-income families

13 different uniformed groups partnered with in York



Green corridors

127 hectares of land worked across for nature recovery

4 new sites where water vole were found on the corridors

5 new roles within the Green Corridors team to support the delivery of nature recovery

during the Big Community Challenge, in four weeks...

500 volunteers from **16** different organisations gave

1,362 hours of volunteer time spent over

33 sites across York

5,000 tansy beetle food plants planted to create and improve tansy beetle habitats



Key achievements:

Waste minimisation

In 2024-25, our priority as a team was to focus on consolidating our growth over the last few years. Thanks to the contract with City of York Council that is our longest yet, and gaining approval for our custom garage we took this opportunity to really focus on getting the basics right, so that in coming years we can continue to expand on our previous successes.

To do this we have had our new garage built, and played with the internal layout to make functional workspaces, storage for items like replacement boxes and to keep it a safe and accessible place to store and charge our vehicles. Being able to store our vehicles outside of the garden has increased storage capacity for other teams, and improved our efficiency as we are now able to get all vehicles from one location, instead of having them spread out wherever there is space. Having a dedicated space where we can carry out routine maintenance and bale foil has also helped the team massively!



Over the year Terracycle have gradually phased out and closed down many of their most popular schemes. As a result we've seen a significant decrease in the number of people attending our drop in sessions and the volumes of waste brought to us and our partner locations.

This year we invested in new software that is helping us improve efficiency on our routes. It allows us to store all paperwork related to our business waste customers, schedule collections, report issues and generate invoices.



We have also been investing in our people. Three of our staff have attended mental health at work first aid training and one has attended dementia awareness training. These team members have shared their learning and as a team we have modified the way we work and communicate internally.

Churchill Medal, in recognition of her work Towards Zero Waste. Her report is published on the Churchill Fellowship [website here](#) if you'd like to have a read.

In September 2024 Sam, our Waste & Recycling Manager attended the awards ceremony for her Churchill Fellowship. Here she was awarded her

In the coming financial year we hope to build on the foundations we've solidified in this year. We will be proactively looking for new business customers and events collections. Now that we have a dedicated space, we will also be doing market research and testing to launch Precious Plastic York, our in-house plastic recycling initiative, and we will be focusing on working with our residents to ensure our service meets their needs.



In April 2025 the first phase of the Simpler Recycling legislation, on workplace recycling, entered into force (further phases, due to take effect in April 2026 and April 2027, will also affect domestic recycling). The new rules provide a great opportunity for us to showcase our skills and experience. We will be leading by example, launching a Zero Waste St Nicks programme where we take a deep dive on the waste our charity produces and what we can do about it to minimise that. We'll be helping our businesses and residents navigate the Simpler Recycling reforms and sharing what we learn along the way to create resources that anyone can use to reduce their waste impact.

Key achievements:

Green Corridors York (GCY)

St Nicks Local Nature Reserve

The St Nicks Wildwatch group have met weekly to record species on the nature reserve since 2011. The species list continues to grow (2591 in March 2025) which is testament to the expertise and dedication of the volunteers. The highlight of the year was the confirmation of White-letter Hairstreak butterflies from the small Ash tree behind the Dragon Stones in July, where they feed on honeydew. First found in 2022, it's a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species, "Vulnerable" nationally according to IUCN criteria, "High" conservation priority (Butterfly Conservation), and in serious decline in Britain.



In July, a gorgeous little jewel wasp (aka ruby-tailed wasp or cuckoo wasp) was found pottering around and preening itself on a Teasel leaf near the Dragon Stones. Remarkably this appeared to be *Chrysura radians*, another of St Nicks' Red List species, originally found by Michael Archer way back in 2007 and considered possibly extinct on the reserve and a priority to re-find. The wasp is Nationally Scarce A and associated with deadwood where its mason bee hosts nest. The photo above was taken by Sam Buckton.

Moth-trapping by Amy Bowman continued in the Environment Centre garden with several first recordings for the nature reserve. Non-moth moth trap 'intruders' are sometimes as interesting, if not more so, than the moths themselves, and a particularly notable example was a female Rhinoceros Beetle *Sinodendron cylindricum*. This beetle is uncommon nationally, especially in the north, and its larvae feed on rotting wood while the adults feed on tree sap – potentially a further vindication of St Nicks' excellent deadwood habitats as the site matures.

Another general piece of news to highlight in this reporting period was the completion of a document entitled 'Habitats, species and ecology of St Nicks' (to be added to the website and linked), written by Sam Buckton with input from the wider Wildwatch group.

Citizen Science and Ecological Monitoring

It has been a year of growth for our citizen science and ecological monitoring work for the Green Corridors project. Having a dedicated Ecology Officer has allowed for much greater coordination and joined up working with partners. Miranda has been busy developing partnerships and recruiting citizen scientist volunteers to support our work and highlights have included:

- Water voles being recorded on Tang Hall Beck at Hull Road Park and Derwenthorpe, and on the River Foss at West Nooks and Willow Bank. All sites which have seen improvements in the management as part of the Rivers and Floodplains project.
- Undertaking Grassland Quality Surveys across a series of Green Corridors sites to collect baseline data to monitor and improve management.
- Miranda and Nicola Ward undertaking a 3-year programme of Floodplain Meadow Ambassador training with the Floodplain Meadow Partnership. The skills they are learning include botanical ID and floodplain meadow survey techniques and will provide us with the resource to better undertaken restoration projects in the future.
- Successful delivery of a Tansy Beetle Habitat Suitability research project in partnership with the North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre. Using existing data and knowledge of Tansy beetle requirements, the research project has produced a Tansy beetle habitat suitability tool to help to inform habitat creation and improvement works.

York Cares Big Community Challenge

In partnership with York Cares and City of York Council (CYC) the 16th Big Community Challenge was held over 4 weeks in September and October. Over 500 volunteers from 16 local employers and both universities volunteered over 1,362 hours of their time to change landscapes, connecting communities in the North, South, East and West of York through nature. 48 volunteering sessions took place across 33 sites working with 28 business partners. During the month we weeded, dug, raked, scythed, created meadows, picked litter, sowed 6kg wildflower seed and planted around 17,800 plants and bulbs to improve the sites. One of the biggest successes has been creating a new wildflower area on a key area of the city walls. This is the first of a series of habitat improvements across York's historic city centre boundary in partnership with City of York Council called York Walls in Bloom. More information can be found here <https://www.york.gov.uk/YorkWallsInBloom>.

Floating Ecosystem

The grand finale of the Big Community Challenge was the launch of a 36m² floating ecosystem habitat on the river Ouse which has been many years in the planning. The launch brings together representatives and volunteers from organisations across the city. Volunteers from the key funder Aviva, St Nicks and York Cares helped assemble and plant

the ecosystem. The structure will provide the community in the City Centre with a lasting environmental focal point, which will evolve and grow over time. The pontoon-like structure will help improve water quality and increase biodiversity and vegetation in the river, which will attract wildlife that live in and on the Ouse. By introducing more natural wetland habitats, aquatic life will be encouraged to feed and shelter around the structure, as well as giving birds a place to rest and nest.



Key achievements:

Nature-based Wellbeing

Over the past year, we have focussed on increasing our capacity having been over-subscribed and closed to new referrals for a period. We increased the size of our team, added new groups such as Sweet Chestnut and Slow Floristry, increased our mentoring capacity and developed our programme across the city in new locations.

The changes we made allowed us to re-open to referrals in January 2025. This was exciting and there was considerable interest in the programme, not only from social prescribers and self-referrers but also from many organisations across the city, highlighting the continuing need for participants and demonstrating the strength of the links the project has built across the city.

During this period, we have also made changes to how we administer the programme, ensuring that we are able to grow safely. We implemented the use of a new CRM, Charity Log, helping us to streamline our referral process, store our data more efficiently and monitor trends in group activity much more effectively.

We have had many highlights for participants throughout the year including our work with the York Minster, York Art Gallery and York Museum. They kindly invited our Art Based Creative Writing group to visit numerous times including to the exhibition to commemorate the fire at the Minster 40 years ago. Our participants particularly enjoyed looking at the archives relating to this.

Words from the Wild book group were fortunate to have a visit from a York-based author, Kathryn Tann, whose book “Seaglass” they were reading. The feedback was wonderful with group members being inspired to write. Kathryn noted the warmth of the group, and the supportive environment.

Our Discover Nature group have attended numerous nature inspired trips including to Dalby Forest, a picnic at Howsham Mill and a trip to Temple Newsam. Trips are always well received by participants and give opportunity to explore somewhere new in a safe way. Trips are one example of our co-design and feedback process which is at the core of the project.



Ecotherapy in the community

The past year has seen a notable increase in our partnership work. We have strengthened our existing links with the local community and developed new partnerships which have allowed us to add value to our provision for the community and reach new people. We continue to deliver a gardening group at Foss Park allotment. A key success of this provision has been the transition for people to join our wider programme at the point of discharge.

Our outreach and taster programmes have proven to be a successful way of broadening our reach and allowing us to work with new participants. We have delivered taster sessions at various organisations and community settings, and this continues to be a priority for the programme. An example of this is our work with the Unitarian Chapel to deliver a Community Eco-action event for the inter-faith community. The event saw the group enjoy walks on the nature reserve, poetry readings, craft activities and songs as well sharing lunch together.

Our Warm Spaces groups, funded by City of York Council and delivered through the winter months were successful in helping us to reach new communities. Through this programme,



we coordinated our efforts with York Mosque to allow us to maximise the provision and avoid duplication. Our relaxed and welcoming groups were well attended and provided a warm space and lunch for 71 people from a range of communities.

This year we have begun to develop Ecotherapy at The Mental Health Hub, 30 Clarence Street.

This connection has meant that we are delivering as part of York's community mental health transformation plans and will enable us to support more people going forwards.

The past year has been one of transition, with new staff coming onboard both in delivery and management of the project. Like our team, our number of sessions have grown, and we are delivering more than ever both at St Nicks and wider afield. We see developing further outreach links something we will continue to explore to help those in different areas of the city access nature-based wellbeing services.

“

I thought I wasn't good with words. But here, words are powerful. Your thoughts mean something. Even further than that, you mean something here. That's pretty rare to find..

”

Key achievements:

Education

It has also been a very busy year on our Education Programme. This year, we have continued to deliver our Nature Adventurers programme as well as expanding our education offer to pre-school aged children and families through our Nature Tots provision. As with our wider Ecotherapy programme, partnership has been key to our developments this year, and we had the pleasure of hosting groups from a variety of other organisations, including scouts groups and family activities for Refugee Action York (RAY) and York Travellers Trust. We have continued to forge relationships with local youth provision, schools and community groups, delivering awareness talks and outreach sessions. Through our education programme, we have seen young people grow in confidence, engage in group activities and develop their knowledge and understanding of nature, conservation climate and the environment.

Green Leaders

This programme is funded by The National Lottery Community Fund and Food Fund and is aimed at engaging children and young people in the natural world but also equipping them with the knowledge and skills to protect and care for the environment. The groups cover a range of skills from focused conservation work to engagement through play and discovery. We engage with Green Leaders through work with after school groups, alternative education providers, uniformed organisations such as cubs and brownies, as well as running two community Nature Adventurers programmes, one aimed at families, and another aimed at babies and toddlers. In addition to this, we work with trainee teachers to equip future educators with the skills to engage children green education. This year, we have engaged over 260 individual young people in the Green Leaders programme.

“This has been lovely. Really relaxed. Lots of our families come from farming backgrounds or had land and now are housed in apartments so being free to climb and play is perfect. I usually have a lot of concerns to help people with, but here, they can escape them. They are too busy enjoying themselves!”
- Senior Project Officer, RAY

Holiday clubs

Our Holiday Clubs are funded by Holiday Activities and Food Fund and National Lottery Community Fund. These hugely popular holiday sessions engage families and young people in seasonal nature based activities with the majority of uptake from families on low incomes. Each session includes a lunch cooked on the campfire and allows families to develop a deep nature connection. This year, we have delivered 26 holiday clubs with a total of 377 attendances, of which 60% are eligible for free school meals.



Fundraising and events

We host a range of events throughout the year to engage with our community, celebrate the changing seasons, and raise funds to continue our valuable work.

Our annual Autumn Fayre took place in October again this year: despite the windy conditions and rain towards the end of the event, we welcomed around 400 attendees to the nature reserve for a fun afternoon of community fun, engaging with other organisations through stalls, fundraising activities and live music. We are grateful to Latimer by Clarion Housing Group for sponsoring this year's event.

In December we hosted York's Rock Choir for our Winter Songs for an atmospheric evening of Christmas music and refreshments. Our annual fundraising ceilidh was popular as ever (see the photo below!) with FiddlersWreck ceilidh band, helping us to raise over £1,200 in ticket sales in February 2025.

ISL, one of our recycling properties, very kindly nominated us as their charity of the year. Staff from across the organisation were invited to an awards evening in Manchester. We are so grateful to our members and regular donors who support us and share our vision to see York as a city where people value wildlife, the environment and each other equally to sustain a rich and healthy life for all.



Looking ahead

Areas of focus for 2025/26 and future aspirations

Our Environment Centre continues to be a priority for us moving forwards. Looking into 2025/26, we are keen to finalise our initial plans and secure planning permission to extend and retrofit the centre. Our focus continues to be on how we can lead by example in sustainable builds.

We know that financing a project this size is going to be a huge challenge for us. Since first identifying the need to develop the building, costs have increased significantly, making it harder to source and secure funding. We are keen to explore opportunities for partners to invest in this capital project.

In 2025/26, we have a number of larger projects that will be entering their final year of multi-year grant funding. Our priority will be to work to sustain our provision, ensuring that we are co-creating with our stakeholders and key partners through the development process.

We are keen to further explore our education work with children and young people, with a focus on increasing our capacity to support more teenagers in the local area. We are aiming to engage more young people in the local nature reserve and increase their skills and understanding in nature-based work.



Who we are

Trustees

Stuart Leslie, Chair

Jonny Exon, Vice Chair (until December 2024)

Emma Beddington

Emily Casey (from December 2024)

Martin Crosby

Samuel Crutchley

Harrison Green, Secretary (from December 2024)

Savannah Green

Marina Lambrakis (from December 2024)

Adrian Lovett (until November 2024)

Jamie Sims

Staff

Vicky Blakey-Archer, CEO (from September 2024)

Ellie Stead, CEO (until July 2024)

Sara Addy, Ecotherapy Officer (from November 2024)

Gillian Astbury, Green Corridors

Community Engagement Officer (from June 2024)

Christine Banham, Ecotherapy Youth Mentor (from May 2024)

Mark Claridge, Recycling Officer (from May 2024)

Jonathan Dent, Green Corridors Manager

Sam Dredge, Recycling Officer (from January 2024)

Miranda Dunstan, Green Corridors Ecology Officer (from April 2024)

Eliza Fergusson, Charity Support Manager

Abi Gibbons, Community Engagement Officer (until February 2025)

Maria Gill, Senior Green Corridors Officer

Beki Hagger, Senior Green Corridors Officer

Rachel Hall, Ecotherapy Officer (until August 2024)

David Hammond, Recycling Officer

Charlotte Hanson, Recycling Officer

Andrew Harper, Nature-based Wellbeing Manager - Maternity Cover (from January 2025)

Marc Hodgson, Senior Recycling Officer

Chris King, Recycling Officer

Jane Mackay, Thriving at Work Officer

Maeve Milliken, Green Corridors Habitats Officer

Anna Perrett, Nature-based Wellbeing Manager (from April 2024)

Eithne Philips, Ecotherapy Officer

Tommy Ralling, Recycling Officer (from 2023 to June 2024)

Catriona Strachan, Ecotherapy Officer (from November 2024)

Sam Taylor, Waste & Recycling Manager

Eleanor Tookey, Senior Ecotherapy Officer

Martha Tookey, Recycling Officer

Nicola Ward, Senior Green Corridors Officer

David Walker, Reserve and Maintenance Officer

Stuart Watling, Senior Recycling Officer

Joe Whitney, Green Corridors Habitats Officer (from April 2024)

Patron

Kate Pickett

Volunteers

We would like to thank our volunteers for their energy and enthusiasm: across educational activities, green corridor sites, park rangers, citizen scientists, our eco-crafters, helping events to run smoothly, corporate groups... the list goes on and we are so grateful for every single person who generously shares their time and skills. Our volunteers are a hardy bunch: we love that our volunteers turn out whatever the weather, rain or shine, to help make York a greener place.

Governance and risk management

The Friends of St Nicholas Fields is a registered CIO (charity number 1153739). In line with our Constitution, the Board of Trustees may appoint up to twelve trustees, who are ratified by our members at the Annual General Meeting. Trustees are selected and appointed based on the skills they bring to the charity.

The Board of Trustees and senior management team regularly review our risk register in order to govern effectively and mitigate any identified risks. In relation to some of our higher scoring risks, we have made good progress in addressing potential issues around securing continuity of funding (financial), economic and political changes (external), and succession planning (governance).

Overall, the Board of Trustees of St Nicks have given consideration to the most significant risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that appropriate and proportional systems and procedures are in place to mitigate those risks.

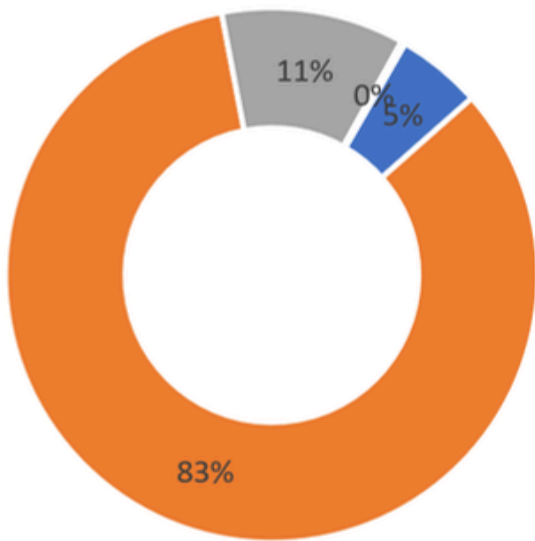
Financial activities 2024/25

In 2024/2025 St Nicks generated income of £789,347 against £655,526 in the previous year. Total expenditure amounted to £774,759 (2022/2023 £654,883). The net result of the charity for the year is a surplus of £14,588 (2022/2023 £654). This surplus is essential in keeping our reserves figures relative to the increased size of the organisation.

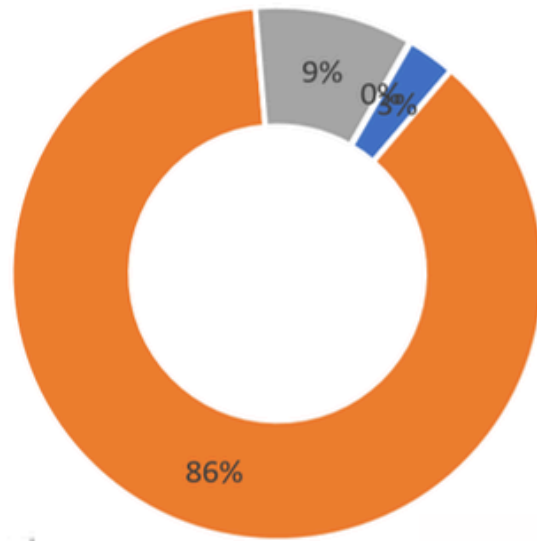
The organisation growth is largely a result of securing our residential recycling contract with CYC, as well as a planned growth of our Green Corridors York project, allowing us to deliver our much needed nature recovery work on even more sites in York.

As always, we are grateful to our funding partners, supporters, members, volunteers and our incredible staff team for what has been a hugely successful year for St Nicks.

2023/24



2024/25



- Grants, Donations and Legacies
- Charitable Activities
- Other Trading Activities
- Other

Thank you to our key supporters

Better Connect
 Brelms Trust
 City of York Council
 Department for Work and Pensions
 Energy Savings Trust
 Environment Agency
 Ernest Cook Trust
 Heworth Ward Committee
 Hey Smile Foundation
 Hull Road Ward Committee
 Joseph Rowntree Foundation
 Natural England
 Natural England Species Recovery Fund
 Neighbourly
 Persimmon Homes
 Spark Fund
 The National Lottery Community Fund
 The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Two Ridings Community Foundation
 York CVS
 York St John University
 Yorkshire Water

Organisations donating funds or other support:

Latimer
 York CVS
 York Cares
 River Foss Society
 GoodGym
 North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre
 Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
 Foss Internal Drainage Board
 Stockholm Environment Centre

Friends of St Nicholas Fields

(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Trustees Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ended

31st March 2025

outsource

Charity accounts preparation & independent examination
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Independent examiner's report on the accounts

I report on the accounts of: **Friends of St Nicholas Fields**

for the year ended **31st March 2025** which are set out on pages 24 to 36

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the "2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Chartered Institute Of Management Accountants.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Date: **13/10/2025**

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended: 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3.1	22,955	-	22,955	33,727
Charitable activities	3.2	212,929	469,380	682,309	545,677
Other trading activities	3.3	74,868	-	74,868	72,642
Investments	3.4	8,701	-	8,701	1,835
Other	3.5	514	-	514	1,645
Total income	3	319,967	469,380	789,347	655,526
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4.1	232	-	232	485
Charitable activities	4.2	305,147	469,380	774,527	654,398
Total expenditure	4	305,379	469,380	774,759	654,883
Net income/(expenditure)		14,588	-	14,588	643
Gross transfers between funds		36,664	(36,664)	-	-
Net movement in funds		51,252	(36,664)	14,588	643
Total funds brought forward		133,048	297,926	430,974	430,331
Total funds carried forward		184,300	261,262	445,562	430,974

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Balance Sheet as at: 31st March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	7	303,698	298,793
Total fixed assets		<u>303,698</u>	<u>298,793</u>
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	8	178,887	154,886
Debtors & prepayments	9	55,139	68,133
Stock		-	-
Total current assets		<u>234,026</u>	<u>223,019</u>
Current liabilities: amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors and accruals	10	(92,162)	(90,838)
Net current assets		<u>141,864</u>	<u>132,181</u>
Net Assets		<u>445,562</u>	<u>430,974</u>
Funds of the Charity	11		
Unrestricted Funds (General)		184,300	133,048
Restricted Funds		261,262	297,926
Total Funds Carried Forward	11	<u>445,562</u>	<u>430,974</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on: 22/10/2025

And signed on their behalf by: **Stuart Leslie, Chair of Trustees**



Friends of St Nicholas Fields

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended: 31st March 2025

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	14,588	643
Add: Depreciation for the year	4,645	5,748
	33,552	(42,231)
Working capital changes		
(Increase)/decrease in stock	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	12,994	3,874
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	1,325	(52,496)
	33,552	(42,231)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	9,551	8,896
Disposal of fixed assets	-	-
	9,551	8,896
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	24,001	(51,127)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2024	154,886	206,013
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2025	178,887	154,886

Notes to the accounts for the year ended:

31st March 2025

1 Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

1.2 Change of basis of accounting

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year.

1.3 Change to previous accounts

There has been some recategorisation of income and expenditure from last year . This does not affect the total figures .

2 Accounting policies

Income and endowments

Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- receipt of the resources is probable; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Incoming resources with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure, the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has evidence of entitlement to the resources and receipt is probable.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Investment income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Expenditure

Raising funds

Cost of raising funds comprise those costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable activities

Charitable activities expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £2000. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt, less depreciation.

Depreciation is provided at rates to write off the costs less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Office equipment	25%	straight line basis
Project equipment	25%	straight line basis
Computer equipment	33.33%	straight line basis
Adventure playground equipment	25%	straight line basis

Environment Centre

Depreciation is on a straight line basis in line with the lease length.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor.

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Notes to the accounts for the year ended:

31 March 2025

3 Income and endowments	2025			2024		
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
3.1 Donations and legacies						
Donations	14,281	-	14,281	13,225	-	13,225
Legacies	-	-	-	5,000	-	5,000
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	8,674	-	8,674	15,502	-	15,502
	22,955	-	22,955	33,727	-	33,727
3.2 Charitable activities						
Grants	-	469,380	469,380	-	359,744	359,744
Waste minimisation	-	-	-	12,422	-	12,422
Recycling scheme	151,491	-	151,491	111,279	3,281	114,560
Recycling credits	18,206	-	18,206	13,643	-	13,643
Local Nature Reserve SLA	23,008	-	23,008	23,008	-	23,008
Habitat contract work	16,324	-	16,324	18,400	-	18,400
Open University - Branching out	3,900	-	3,900	3,900	-	3,900
	212,929	469,380	682,309	170,230	363,025	545,677
3.3 Other trading activities						
Educational, lettings & rentals	2,341	-	2,341	2,815	117	2,932
Membership fees	346	-	346	1,453	-	1,453
Educational events	3,913	-	3,913	3,287	-	3,287
General sales	68,268	-	68,268	64,936	-	64,936
Shop sales	-	-	-	34	-	34
	74,868	-	74,868	72,525	117	72,642
3.4 Investments						
Bank interest	8,701	-	8,701	1,835	-	1,835
	8,701	-	8,701	1,835	-	1,835
3.5 Other						
Other sundry income	514	-	514	1,645	-	1,645
	514	-	514	1,645	-	1,645
Total income	319,967	469,380	789,347	279,962	363,142	655,526

4 Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds #	Total 2024 £
4.1 Raising funds						
Marketing & publicity costs			-	100	28	128
Purchases for resale	232	-	232	357	-	357
	232	-	232	457	28	485
4.2 Charitable activities						
Salaries	224,773	299,077	523,850	200,708	245,017	445,725
Staff training & other costs	2,923	4,061	6,984	125	3,410	3,535
Volunteer training & other costs	378	36	414	-	534	534
Rent & rates	380	193	573	344	89	433
Utilities	1,643	835	2,478	1,653	649	2,302
Cleaning, repairs & renewals	2,306	1,017	3,323	14,225	757	14,982
Health and safety & security	954	485	1,439	1,557	493	2,050
Telephone, IT & communications	10,289	3,854	14,143	6,721	2,777	9,498
Postage & stationery	1,745	990	2,735	2,753	1,167	3,920
Insurance	14,567	3,946	18,513	8,609	5,254	13,863
Memberships & subscriptions	1,174	596	1,770	1,352	531	1,883
Legal & professional fees	2,074	1,054	3,128	587	8,453	9,040
Resources & equipment	3,984	3,517	7,501	6,747	17,530	24,277
Project support	2,818	20,320	23,138	956	21,054	22,010
Other project costs	17,880	121,515	139,395	20,448	47,069	67,517
Accountancy fees	12,089	6,143	18,232	13,528	5,312	18,840
Bank charges	312	158	470	332	72	404
Event costs	1,689	-	1,689	3,032	-	3,032
Sundry expenses	1	18	19	2,641	-	2,641
Bad debts & balances written off	88	-	88	839	1,325	2,164
Depreciation	3,080	1,565	4,645	4,127	1,621	5,748
	305,147	469,380	774,527	291,284	363,114	654,398
Total expenditure	305,379	469,380	774,759	291,741	363,142	654,883

5 Expenses & fees

No trustees received a remuneration for services rendered during the year, nor were any trustees' out of pocket expenses reimbursed.

5.1 Fees for examination of the accounts

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent Examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	<u>1,350</u>	<u>1,200</u>

6 Staff costs and emoluments

6.1 Staff costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Gross salaries	483,625	411,774
Employers National Insurance	30,585	25,780
Pension contributions	9,640	8,171
	<u>523,850</u>	<u>445,725</u>

6.2 Average number of full time equivalent employees by department

	2025	2024
Fundraising	1.00	2.00
Charitable activities	13.41	10.27
Governance	1.00	0.50
Other	2.00	2.00
Total	<u>17.41</u>	<u>14.77</u>

No employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000 (2024:Nil)

7 Fixed assets

2025	Leasehold Environment £	Office equipment £	General equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
7.1 Cost or valuation					
Balance b/fwd	324,111	-	9,896	-	334,007
Additions	9,551	-	-	-	9,551
Disposals	-	-	0	-	-
Balance c/fwd	<u>333,662</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,896</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>343,558</u>
Depreciation					
Balance b/fwd	32,740	-	2,474	-	35,214
Charge for year	3,383	-	1,263	-	4,646
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance c/fwd	<u>36,123</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,737</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,860</u>
Net book value					
31 March 2025	<u>297,539</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,159</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>303,698</u>

2024	Leasehold Environment £	Office equipment £	General equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
Balance b/fwd	324,111	-	64,820	-	388,931
Additions	-	-	8,896	-	8,896
Disposals	-	-	(63,820)	-	(63,820)
Balance c/fwd	<u>324,111</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,896</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>334,007</u>
Depreciation					
Balance b/fwd	29,466	-	63,820	-	93,286
Charge for year	3,274	-	2,474	-	5,748
Disposals	-	-	(63,820)	-	(63,820)
Balance c/fwd	<u>32,740</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,474</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,214</u>
Net book value					
31 March 2024	<u>291,371</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,422</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>298,793</u>

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	2024 £
8 Cash at bank and in hand				
CAF Cash account	46,766	-	46,766	14,996
CAF Gold account	25,236	-	25,236	40,345
Go cardless	(81)	-	(81)	(30)
Flagstone Group Ltd	106,006	-	106,006	98,538
PayPal account	-	-	-	142
Soldo	940	-	940	575
Other cash in hand	20	-	20	320
	<u>178,887</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>178,887</u>	<u>154,886</u>

9 Debtors and prepayments

	2025 £	2024 £
Debtors and prepayments		
Trade debtors	26,519	45,238
Other debtors	415	415
Prepayments and accrued income	28,205	22,480
Total	<u>55,139</u>	<u>68,133</u>

10 Creditors and accruals

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	19,908	9,794
Deposits held	202	202
Accruals and deferred income	63,508	70,417
Tax and social security	8,544	10,425
Total	<u>92,162</u>	<u>90,838</u>

11.1 Movement of major funds

2025 Fund name	Balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
Unrestricted funds (General)					
General unrestricted funds	112,875	319,967	305,379	56,837	184,300
Waste minimisation	20,173	-	-	(20,173)	-
	133,048	319,967	305,379	36,664	184,300
Restricted funds					
Environment Centre	294,645	-	-	(36,664)	257,981
Grants Waste minimisation					
Precious plastic	3,281	-	-	-	3,281
Grants Green Spaces					
Aviva	-	16,937	16,937	-	-
HR Park	-	8,618	8,618	-	-
York urban becks 2	-	38,474	38,474	-	-
National lottery heritage	-	78,772	78,772	-	-
New to nature	-	7,279	7,279	-	-
NE SRP	-	21,550	21,550	-	-
YPIP	-	37,422	37,422	-	-
Climate Action Fund	-	90,134	90,134	-	-
Rawcliffe lake	-	2,737	2,737	-	-
Grants Nature & wellbeing					
National lottery community fund	-	134,874	134,874	-	-
Deciding together	-	2,803	2,803	-	-
Nordic Walking	-	1,050	1,050	-	-
Mental Health Transformation	-	18,967	18,967	-	-
HAF	-	8,163	8,163	-	-
Warm Spaces	-	1,600	1,600	-	-
	297,926	469,380	469,380	(36,664)	261,262
Total Funds	430,974	789,347	774,759	-	445,562

The designated funds for waste minimisation have been transferred back to general unrestricted funds. A proportion of the environment centre has also been transferred to unrestricted funds.

2024 Fund name	Balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
Unrestricted funds (General)					
General unrestricted funds	124,714	279,962	291,741	(60)	112,875
Waste minimisation	7,751	12,422	-	-	20,173
	132,465	292,384	291,741	(60)	133,048
Restricted funds					
Environment Centre	294,645	-	-	0	294,645
Grants Central					
Energy redress	-	11,945	11,945	-	0
Kickstarter	(60)	-	-	60	-
Building Capacities	-	7,340	7,340	-	-
Grants Waste minimisation					
Precious Plastic	3,281	3,850	3,850	-	3,281
Guildhall & binstore project	-	-	-	-	-
Grants Green Spaces					
Brelms Trust	-	4,505	4,505	-	-
Green recovery	-	894	894	-	-
HR Park	-	15,471	15,471	-	-
York urban becks	-	3,459	3,459	-	-
York urban becks 2	-	46,526	46,526	-	-
Yorkshire water	-	3,964	3,964	-	-
National lottery heritage	-	49,036	49,036	-	-
NE Seedcorn	-	13,750	13,750	-	-
New to nature	-	16,329	16,329	-	-
Rawcliffe lake	-	2,063	2,063	-	-
Grants Nature & wellbeing					
Green influencers scheme	-	9,143	9,143	-	-
National lottery community fund	-	111,328	111,328	-	-
BLF 2	-	8,335	8,335	-	-
JRCT	-	6,379	6,379	-	-
CMHT	-	13,974	13,974	-	-
TRCF Green leaders	-	9,830	9,830	-	-
Deciding together	-	11,630	11,630	-	-
Two Ridings COL	-	7,570	7,570	-	-
Thriving at work	-	5,821	5,821	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	297,866	363,142	363,142	60	297,926
Total Funds	430,331	655,526	654,883	-	430,974

The kickstarter fund has now finished and a transfer has been made to clear the balance.

11.2 Details of Funds Held

Unrestricted Funds (General)

The General fund is unrestricted and available for the general purposes of the Organisation.

Restricted Funds

The restricted funds are only available for the purposes specified for each fund, which are:

Environment Centre

A fund used towards building of the centre to provide environmental educational facilities.

Precious plastic

Precious Plastic York was deferred income from a combination of a crowdfunder which was match funded by the University of York's Spark Innovation Fund.

Aviva

Funding from Aviva towards the implementation of a floating ecosystem on the river Ouse.

HR Park

Environmental Agency funding to restore natural processes of Osbaldwick Beck through Hull Road Park

York urban becks 2

City of York Council funds to undertake ecological surveys of Hull Road park and the wider Osbaldwick beck.

National lottery heritage

Green Corridors York Rivers and Floodplains - 3 year project connecting habitats and communities for nature recovery across York's rivers and floodplains

New to nature

Funding from Groundwork for a Green Corridors York trainee for 12 months. Trainees are paid a competitive wage for 12-months while gaining valuable hands-on experience in the environmental sector. This not only allows them to support themselves but also offers a stepping stone towards a fulfilling career.

NE SRP

Funding from Natural England species recovery programme to support river corridor mapping to map habitat suitability for the Tansy beetle and overall river corridor health along the 45km of the river Ouse where the tansy beetle is present.

YPIP

Yorkshire and Humber Local Policy and Innovation Partnership. Funding for Green Corridors York as a place-based demonstrator project for the "Sustainable Living In A Greener Economy" work package.

Climate Action Fund

National Lottery Heritage fund to kick start the creation and restoration of more, bigger, better and more joined up habitats across three landscape scale corridors and 22 sites across York Local Authority Area, including floodplain meadow, hedgerows, woodland and riparian habitat of the critically endangered tansy beetle

Rawcliffe lake

Funding from Yorkshire Water Biodiversity Fund to enhance habitats around Rawcliffe Lake

National lottery community fund

Funding over 5 years (May 2018-May 2023) to fund the Ecotherapy Programme

Deciding together

Via Two Riding Community Foundation, this funding provided for a pilot for increasing partnership work around nature connectedness and mental wellbeing across York

Nordic Walking

To provide Nordic walking sessions as part of our ecotherapy programme.

Mental Health Transformation

NHS commissioned funding for the Making Tracks project that tops up our Ecotherapy provision. Covering Foss Park allotment sessions, Making Tracks conservation sessions, and a proportion of Ecotherapy Officer (Green Corridors) and Ecotherapy Officer (Administration) staff hours.

HAF

Holiday and Food Fund: to provide outdoor activities and nutritious food for children and young people during school holidays.

Warm Spaces

Funding from City of York Council to provide Warm Spaces provision during the Winter Months.





Report published in October 2025 by St Nicks

(a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered as Friends of St Nicholas Fields, charity no. 1153739)

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Connect with us on social media:  

Cover photo credit: Ecotherapy 'Discover Nature' group participant



FRIENDS OF ST NICHOLAS FIELDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1153739

Accounts



Annual report 2023/24



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Message from the Chair of Trustees

I am delighted to reflect on a period of growth and collaboration, underpinned by our longstanding commitment to positive environmental impact. The past 12 months has seen our green heart in York beat ever stronger, and we are proud of how we continue to nurture both nature and people.

The charity sector has faced a wide array of pressures this year. Cost inflation and reduced funding opportunities have impacted many organisations, including ours. These financial constraints make it harder to deliver services and meet the rising needs of our community and our habitats. Despite these challenges, the need for the services we provide has grown. St Nicks has had to be agile and resourceful, to ensure our ability to offer environmental stewardship, mental health services, and sustainable living education continues to flourish. As public concern over climate change and biodiversity loss continues to rise, charities like St Nicks play an essential role in preserving habitats, reducing carbon footprints, and educating communities about sustainable living.

Our success is built on the strength of our partnerships and the generosity of our volunteers. We seek out opportunities for collaboration, for example when joining forces with local schools for tree-planting days and nature education workshops, identifying opportunities for expansion of our Green Corridors work, or via our involvement in the York Precious Plastics project, which tackles plastic waste head-on by transforming it into usable products.

We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support of our funders and other external bodies, including the National Lottery Heritage Fund and City of York Council. These partnerships help us expand our reach and enhance our capacity. We are delighted to be in the process of renewing our recycling contract with CYC, and our recycling service continues to receive national recognition.

In August 2023 we suffered a break-in at the Environment Centre which caused significant disruption to our operations. Thanks to the positive attitude, determination and resilience of our dedicated staff team, alongside the kindness of our wider network of supporters and volunteers in donating money and time to our recovery campaign, we were able to adjust, bounce back, and most importantly minimise the impact on our service provision. It served as a reminder that when plans get knocked off course unexpectedly, the power of our culture and our community is invaluable to us. We do not take this for granted and acknowledge the pressures faced when persevering during an uncertain crisis management phase. Nevertheless, we should be proud of how our people tackled adversity head-on and got St Nicks back up on its feet.

Finally – to continue this sentiment, a thank you. To everyone who has supported St Nicks over the past year – volunteers, staff, funders, and community members – for helping us grow and thrive. Together, we can continue to build a more sustainable future for York.

CEO's report



This has been a difficult year for the charity sector – almost two thirds of charities have reported having to do more with less compared to a year ago as well as using reserves and asking funders for assistance with increased costs (Source UK Fundraising Jan 2024).

Research by Charities Aid Foundation suggests that 50% of charities now say they are at full capacity and cannot help anyone else, because of increased demand and sustained financial challenges. One in seven (15%) say they are having to turn people in need away. Charities are propping up government services by more than £2.4bn a year, according to a report by Think Tank NPC.

In the context of this challenging landscape and despite cost pressures and challenges in the availability of funding for core costs rather than projects, St Nicks has had a tremendous year, both financial in terms of grants and funding secured combined with making the very best of all our people and resources. We have not accessed our reserves and have seen continued growth in our income level, balancing costs to ensure we have finalised the year at a breakeven point.

Our strategy to focus on our areas of deep expertise, seeking larger, multi-year grants has seen successful results in the last year, with significant grants from National Lottery Community Fund, National Lottery Heritage Fund and National Lottery Climate Action Fund helping to secure both our Ecotherapy and Nature-Based Wellbeing programme for three years and enabling the extension of our Green Corridors pilot to include Urban Green Corridors across York.

That said, we feel the demand from the pressure being experienced by statutory services in the areas where we provide services. Staff burnout in the community sector is REAL – we have had to review and focus our internal support to ensure our teams and team members, though diligent, committed and creative, are not consistently going beyond what it is reasonable to expect them to deliver.

Unfortunately, the break-in and associated damage we experienced in August did not help, creating additional pressure, particularly on our recycling team due to the damage to our electric vehicles.

We intensified our focus on Mental Health and Wellbeing internally – signed up to the Mental Health at Work Commitment and we continue to work on how best to support all aspects of mental health across our teams knowing that this is needs to constantly evolve as our dynamics change.

In May, Sam Taylor, Waste & Recycling Manager, came in 21st of the “Hot 100” in Resource and Waste Management as an Architect of Change: “Her Tireless efforts in waste education truly inspire change”.

Just as the year closed Sam and her team submitted our bid for our ongoing partnership with CYC for residential recycling within the city centre, further cementing our presence within and across the city. With the support of our funders, we also became a Living Wage Foundation accredited employer, an achievement we have been aspiring to for some time, and one which few charitable organisations in our area have achieved.

In September we came highly commended in the Green Category of the BBC Radio York Make a Difference Awards.

As I leave St Nicks to move to a new role in the sector, I remain incredibly proud of the team here and what they've accomplished over the last few years. They are a testament to all that St Nicks represents and I have no doubt that this will continue under the new CEO.

Ellie Stead

Our charity's purpose

St Nicks aims to:

- Preserve and conserve the area known as St Nicholas Fields, including the flora and fauna of the area, for the benefit and education of the public
- Promote the public education of persons resident in York and surrounding areas in principles and benefits of environmental and conservation issues and of sustainability including but not limited to recycling and waste reduction
- Promote the benefit of the public by providing facilities in the interests of social welfare and leisure time occupation with the object of improving their conditions of life

We work to meet these aims in the following ways:

Reducing carbon emissions

We have continued to provide a free energy advice service for York residents who are either on a low income, or aged 65+ or experiencing a long term health condition or disability. This partnership between St Nicks and York Community Energy is funded through the Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme, and supported by Yorkshire Energy Doctor as well as other local partners.

We have continued to issue fuel vouchers on behalf of the City of York Council to qualifying York residents who need help with meeting their energy costs.

We have continued hosting Open Eco Homes events and drop-in discussions. Around a third of York's carbon emissions come from the way we heat and power our homes. Making them much more energy efficient brings numerous benefits so we facilitate information sharing and understanding of energy saving home upgrades via our York Open Eco Homes events.



Nature-based wellbeing

The Ecotherapy programme has continued with its roster of vital and oversubscribed nature-connectedness groups. Participating in these groups allows people with mental health challenges to improve their wellbeing through connections with nature. We host and facilitate seven year-round weekly activity sessions and four additional seasonal groups, as well as drop-in events to celebrate World Mental Health Day and at other points in the year.

In response to continued winter pressures and with the positive feedback received from the previous year, we continued to host a Warm Space with support from CYC between November and March.

Our monthly Nature Adventurer sessions continue, as well as holiday clubs during Christmas, Easter and summer breaks, enabling children to grow in confidence, skills and passion about the natural world.

Green corridors

While our reach has expanded significantly in recent years, St Nicks Local Nature Reserve remains the only site which we have the official responsibility for managing. As our original site, it has provided us with the learning ground to develop our habitat management and ecological surveying skills and experience. The site management is a collaborative effort with a diverse range of groups (Weekly conservation volunteers, Wildwatch group, St Nicks Ecotherapy group Bearing Fruit, Blueberry Academy, Student Action Group, school and business groups) all contributing. It is this same collaborative community approach, developed over time at St Nicks, which is now being replicated across the wider corridors.

Green Corridors York strives for “more, bigger, better and more joined up” greenspaces and initiatives. We successfully secured funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to scale up the Green Corridors York concept across the city. With partners, we've developed a sustainable plan to expand from 78ha (GRCF pilot) to 280ha of York's special and often unique natural heritage, its rivers and floodplains. The total area of the corridors will cover 1950ha, which we will impact through wider stakeholder engagement work. To successfully deliver the project at this increased scale, we have developed 7 Community Corridor Hubs (St Nicks Environment Centre being the original). These are strategic bases for training, machinery and equipment, plant and tree propagation, engagement and delivering improvements across the corridors.

We have continued to develop Wild York, an online interactive map (initially developed during the pilot project) and the new online portal aims to make nature more accessible and democratise environmental decision making.

We've been developing our citizen science activities by supporting and training individuals, groups and landowners to have the biggest possible impact across the corridors. This includes bringing our rivers back to life through nature friendly management, protecting rare Tansy beetles by connecting and improving their specialist habitats, enhancing habitat for endangered water vole to boost their depleted populations and improving management to enhance floodplain habitats. We have also continued to develop and train citizen science volunteers in a range of self-led and peer-supported ecological surveys.

Recycling and waste management

We have continued to collect recycling from York central residents in line with our contract with City of York Council. Our commercial recycling service, for regular, one off and event recycling has also continued to grow. Thanks to an exciting new partnership with the Recycled Candle Company we have also managed to increase the number of types of material we can collect at the kerbside. York Pride was once again the biggest event we recycled from this year, but the Bisby Road Street Party, Poppleton Sports day and York Cycle Rally also benefited from our teams services and diverted valuable resources from general waste.



Key achievements in 2023/4

Ecotherapy

74 participants enrolled in Ecotherapy

95% of participants felt more connected to nature thanks to their time at St Nicks

4,237 participant hours logged at Ecotherapy activities

403 hours of 1:1 mentoring for mental health logged with participants

412 attendees at our holiday activities for children and young people



Minimising waste

578.2 tonnes of business and recycling waste collected and hand sorted

1049.19

kg of "difficult to recycle" materials recycled through TerraCycle, including over:

0% contamination rate so no materials are rejected by reprocessors and incinerated

310 kg of pens

12 public recycling points maintained, as well as monthly drop-in sessions at St Nicks

415 kg of crisps, nut & snack packaging

229 kg of toothbrushes & toothpaste tubes

Green corridors

113 hectares worked across for nature recovery

5 new Community Conservation Hubs developed

1,500 m of the Foss and its tributaries where water vole populations were recorded

8 km of becks and rivers where St Nicks introduced nature-friendly management

In our Big Community Challenge 2023 in partnership with City of York Council, we held 45 sessions at 15 sites across York, supported by 556 volunteers representing 19 employers and the local community.



Key achievements: reducing carbon, improving lives

Energy Redress Fund

In May, our multi-year Energy Redress programme came to a close. The duration of this programme included significant and unprecedented changes to energy markets including significant price rises and suppliers going out of business. Despite sometimes struggling to keep up with demand, the programme made a positive overall impact on the lives of vulnerable residents who were struggling with energy bills and keeping warm.

Through installing energy saving measures in their homes and/or referring them for bigger works, we've also helped to reduce York's carbon emissions.

We know that a number of referrals to other agencies have led to home repairs and installations of other measures - from draught-proofing in council houses to solar panels on private roofs or a new fridge replacing an ancient predecessor. Sometimes, even just having a friendly chat with residents worried about their bills, explaining how things work and what support is available, has had a big impact on their wellbeing.

"I am writing to express my appreciation to York Energy Advice. In particular I am impressed by your personable, caring professional ways. You have been more than helpful to me in these uncertain and stressful circumstances of keeping warm. The approach and advice by York Energy Advice have been consistently useful and down to earth. [The advisor] who visited is an absolute gem. He is not only good at getting on with the work, but great at explaining things in a friendly manner. I am sure that he puts lots of people at ease. I hope more people in the community can benefit from your most worthy and excellent work."

Here are some of the key deliverables across the lifetime of the project:

- Home visits delivered: 337
- Crisis payments made: 79
- Total distinct households reached with energy advice: 861
- Households provided with at least one small measure: 184
- Estimated annual energy savings achieved (kWh) through measures installed: 35,609kWh
- Actual financial gains or savings on bills: £5,700+
- Number of frontline workers/volunteers trained by project: 97
- In-depth home assessments: 4 whole house assessments and 6 home energy check-ups

We're confident the legacy of this project is a useful and well used local advice service, which is much needed in tackling both fuel poverty and the climate crisis.

York Community Energy (YCE) has secured continuation and expansion core funding for the service from the Shared Prosperity Fund administered by the City of York Council. This has allowed them to employ a new member of staff and secure a locally based office space. St Nicks will continue to work in close partnership with YCE on an ongoing basis.

These changes in funding and structure meant saying good-bye to Ivana as she moved to work exclusively for YCE in June 2023. Over an amazing 19 years working at St Nicks, Ivana took on a wide range of different roles within the charity and has seen it through an enormous amount of change and growth. Over this time Ivana has had a significant positive impact, sharing her passion for protecting nature and educating others on sustainability. We wish Ivana all the best in her role at YCE.

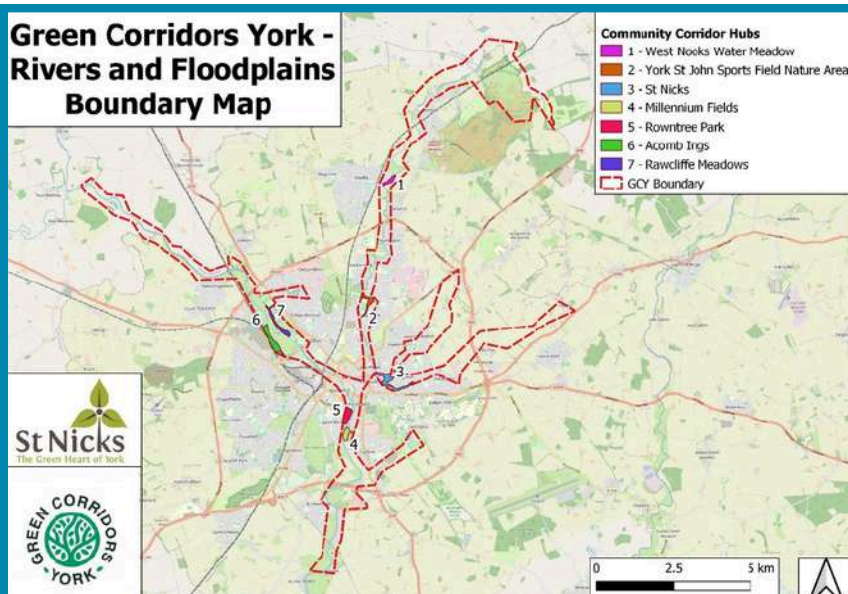


York Open Eco Homes

On Sunday 1st October, York Community Energy in partnership with St Nicks ran their annual York Open Eco Homes Event. This allowed members of the public to visit eco-friendly homes and learn more about upgrading your home for energy saving, efficiency, lower bills and reduced carbon footprint.



Significant activities: Green Corridors York (GCY)



"Our vision is to seamlessly integrate our efforts with St. Nicks' Green Corridors York project, a strategic move aimed at enhancing and expanding green spaces throughout the city. This collaborative initiative holds immense significance in bolstering the environmental sustainability of our beloved city."

- Holly Hennell, Manager at York Cares

St Nicks LNR - Wildwatch

The St Nicks Wildwatch group have met weekly to record species on the nature reserve since 2011. As the species list grows (2,411 in March 2024), so does the enthusiasm by the group to record even more weird, wonderful and often unrecorded wildlife. The highlight of the year came in August, when Sam Buckton found Common Cudweed at the Hazel Court entrance. This wildflower is Near Threatened on both the Great Britain and England Red List (following IUCN criteria). In the same location Sam found several other interesting plants including Sticky Groundsel, Marsh Cudweed, Annual Pearlwort and Wall Speedwell, most of which are new records for the site.

One of the group's favourite finds from the year was a spectacular troupe of Scarlet Elfcups (at least 32!) on a pile of dead branches near the Foss Islands Cycle Path entrance in February 2024.

In June, Amy Bowman had success in attracting *Synanthedon tipuliformis* (Currant Clearwing moths) to a pheromone lure in the Environment Centre garden, where they feed on the Redcurrant bushes. In September, Amy discovered a nest of Yellow Meadow Ants *Lasius flavus* NFR on the bank surrounding the Dragon Stones. This ant is an ecosystem engineer, creating favourable grassland conditions for many other species.

Improved river management

York Consortium of Drainage Boards (YCDB) manage the majority of our rivers. They have traditionally been seen as a barrier to delivering joined up riparian projects due to differing habitat management priorities. With partners, we have developed a positive working relationship with the Consortium, leading to the potential habitat enhancement of over 100km of waterways to support fragmented and isolated species and habitats such as water vole, tansy beetle and floodplain meadow.

This includes a biodiversity trail by the Foss Internal Drainage Board where a range of different and sympathetic management methods are being tested along the lower reaches of the Foss.

Yorkshire water vole project

Water voles have suffered a catastrophic decline across Yorkshire in recent years, due to mink predation and habitat loss. Up to date survey data is essential to identify priority areas for mink control and habitat improvement works. (Kathryn Lillistone EA Project Lead). In 2023 we worked with the River Foss Society and the EA to survey for water vole and mink at sites in the Foss catchment. New positive records of water voles were recorded on the River Foss, Westfield Beck and at Strensall Common which is encouraging after few records in previous years.

Tansy beetle research project

In partnership with the Tansy Beetle Action Group we undertook a Natural England Species Recovery Programme funded project asking the research question: How do Different Riverbank Management Techniques Benefit the Tansy Beetle and Wider Biodiversity? The aim of the study was to understand the wider invertebrate and plant communities that are associated with tansy beetle habitat and how this can be optimised for biodiversity benefits in Yorkshire River corridors (Tansy Beetle Conservation Plan 2023-2027, Objective 1.3.1). This study has provided a good starting point for future research and potential benefits to wider biodiversity, but more robust research designs with larger numbers of sites are needed

to further understand specific management regimes and tansy beetle abundance. 2023 has been a record year for Tansy beetle along the river Ouse. The annual survey revealed a population estimate of 91,000 – nearly double the previous highest estimate of 46,000 back in 2016. This demonstrates how successful positive changes in riverbank management can be.



Wild York

The interactive map (initially developed during the pilot project) and new online portal aims to make nature more accessible and democratise environmental decision making. Further developments will include:

- More detailed information about local projects and how to get involved.
- Information on key species and habitats, including survey data, conservation issues and solutions we can implement.
- Online space for communities to have a voice and instigate change including suggesting sites which could be restored or reimagined, reporting management issues or pollution incidents and celebrating nature.
- Section for 'learning' tools

Significant activities: Nature-based wellbeing

Ecotherapy:

improving wellbeing through nature connectedness

The Ecotherapy programme, funded primarily by the National Lottery Community Fund and a Community Mental Health Team grant, continues to see a high level of demand. We work proactively with a variety of community organisations to manage new referrals, but have seen many groups remain full, with waiting lists. Last year a total of 74 adult participants attended 4,237 hours of activities across seven weekly and four seasonal activities. The regularity of group sessions, and the accompanying 1:1 mentoring, continue to offer

participants routine and help them build resilience, counteract loneliness, and have a positive impact on both physical and mental wellbeing.



Mentoring continues to offer a supportive, non-judgemental space for participants to work through difficulties, set and achieve goals, explore challenges and make informed decisions about how to handle situations. Last year we saw demand for 1:1 mentoring increase and delivered over 400 hours of support in total. Feedback from Ecotherapy participants saw 95% say

they felt more connected to nature through St Nicks, and 91% felt more connected to other people through participating in Ecotherapy activities.

Participants are integral to the community at St Nicks, and Ecotherapy provides a calm and supportive environment, where they can shift their focus from their mental health on to nature, creativity, and learning and sharing their skills. We remain committed to fostering a culture of coproduction, empowering and enabling participants to be involved in all aspects of decision making, building on their strengths and ensuring their voices are heard and rights are championed, with the goal being for them to self-advocate in time.

“St Nicks genuinely saves lives. It is a sanctuary in and amongst the noise”

“Always considered St Nicks life-saving but now its something more, something affirmative and positive. It’s a very supportive space in which to be damaged/broken and yet still find purpose. Other people make this place what it is and there are so many wonderful people here. Thank you”

- Ecotherapy participants

“The Ecotherapy programme at St Nicks has literally been a lifeline for me in helping me to manage anxiety and depression. The kindness, thoughtfulness, care and support I have received here is the most wonderful and most appreciated thing. Because of it I do not need to contact my GP and I am able to gradually rebuild my life after trauma and manage challenges that arise. I truly wish that more people are able to access this kind of therapy. I think it would make a huge difference to our society and our world. I really hope this programme can be expanded and used as a model for other centres and programmes to follow.”

- Ecotherapy participant

Education and Outreach:

improving access and interaction with nature and St Nicks

Education and outreach work has continued to grow, with our youth mentor enhancing local partnerships to engage more children and young people with our Green Leaders scheme, holiday clubs and other educational activities. 118 young people took part in our Green Leaders scheme which aims to create a deeper interest in nature, develop resilience and self-confidence, and improve the mental health and wellbeing of young people. A local primary school, two alternative education providers, a scout group based at York Mosque, and the Traveller’s Trust were all involved. Our holiday club activities saw 428 children attend in total and were part-funded by City of York Council’s Holiday Activities Fund. Seasonal activities were shaped around participants interests and needs, and have included: bushcraft (den building, safe tree climbing, rope swings); nature crafts (willow weaving, natural dying, whittling), environmental projects (bug hotels, bird feeders, planting wildflowers); nature connection and exploration (mindfulness, observation/ID skills).

A teacher we worked with told us “It’s been so nice seeing the group progress over a period of months and how they have built up a connection with each other and seeing how they work together. They love spending time in nature and it has encouraged us to set up our own forest school area at school so children can go and spend time outside more.”



Significant activities: waste minimisation

"I love it [the recycling service]! You guys are always on time and are very efficient!"

- Residential recycling customer

Break-in and response

In August 2023 St Nicks was burglarised. Thousands of pounds worth of damage was caused to our garden, outbuildings and our beloved vehicles. Doris, the bigger of our two vehicles was stolen, whilst Edith who the thieves could not get working was smashed up. To say our team was upset would be an understatement!

To be honest, this senseless act of destruction really shook us, we were doubting our place in the community and had no way of knowing if the criminals would come back to try and gain entry into the building or to cause further damage. We were unable to work the day we discovered the burglary as our entire garden, paths leading to it and environment centre were active crime scenes. All of our sessions and groups had to be cancelled at very short notice. It quickly became apparent that it would not only be our staff and volunteers that were hurt by this crime.



As we needed to communicate the closure of the site for the day news of the crime spread quickly. What we hadn't anticipated was the outpouring of support, offers of aid both financial and physical and ideas for making the site more secure. We received almost £2000 in donations to support us in the clean up.

Complications with the recovery of the vehicles and insurance meant we would not see Doris back on the road within this financial year however our fantastic team have worked incredibly hard to ensure there was no drop in service for our residents or business customers. We wanted to take this as another opportunity to thank our incredible community for their support in what was for us a very trying time.

Garage, future plans & awards!

In December 2023 we finally got planning permission to erect a garage to store our vehicles. The build is due to happen in 2024, which will free up much needed space within our garden and storage units. This year our Residential Recycling contract with City of York Council also expires, we will need to go to tender to reapply for the contract. As part of that process we will include provision to become a living wage employer.

In May our recycling crew were awarded Collection Crew of the Year at the Awards for Excellence in Recycling and Waste Management! Part of their prize, which was awarded in front of industry experts at the Grosvenor Hotel in London was a trip away for the current members of the team. Thanks to our staffs pre booked commitments, six members of the team will have a long weekend away together in September 2024!

In 2023 we also rolled out the first UK kerbside collection of candle wastes. Candles are not commonly recyclable but working with The Recycled Candle Company we are able to collect wax, wax melts, tea light holders and glass jars from our residents and as part of our Terracycle collections. The Recycled Candle Company then recycles it all back into luxury candle products. We are thrilled that some of our Business recycling customers have now opted to stock Recycled Candle Company products, so maybe you'll be buying back materials you'd sent to be recycled!



Looking ahead

Areas of focus for 2024/25 and future aspirations

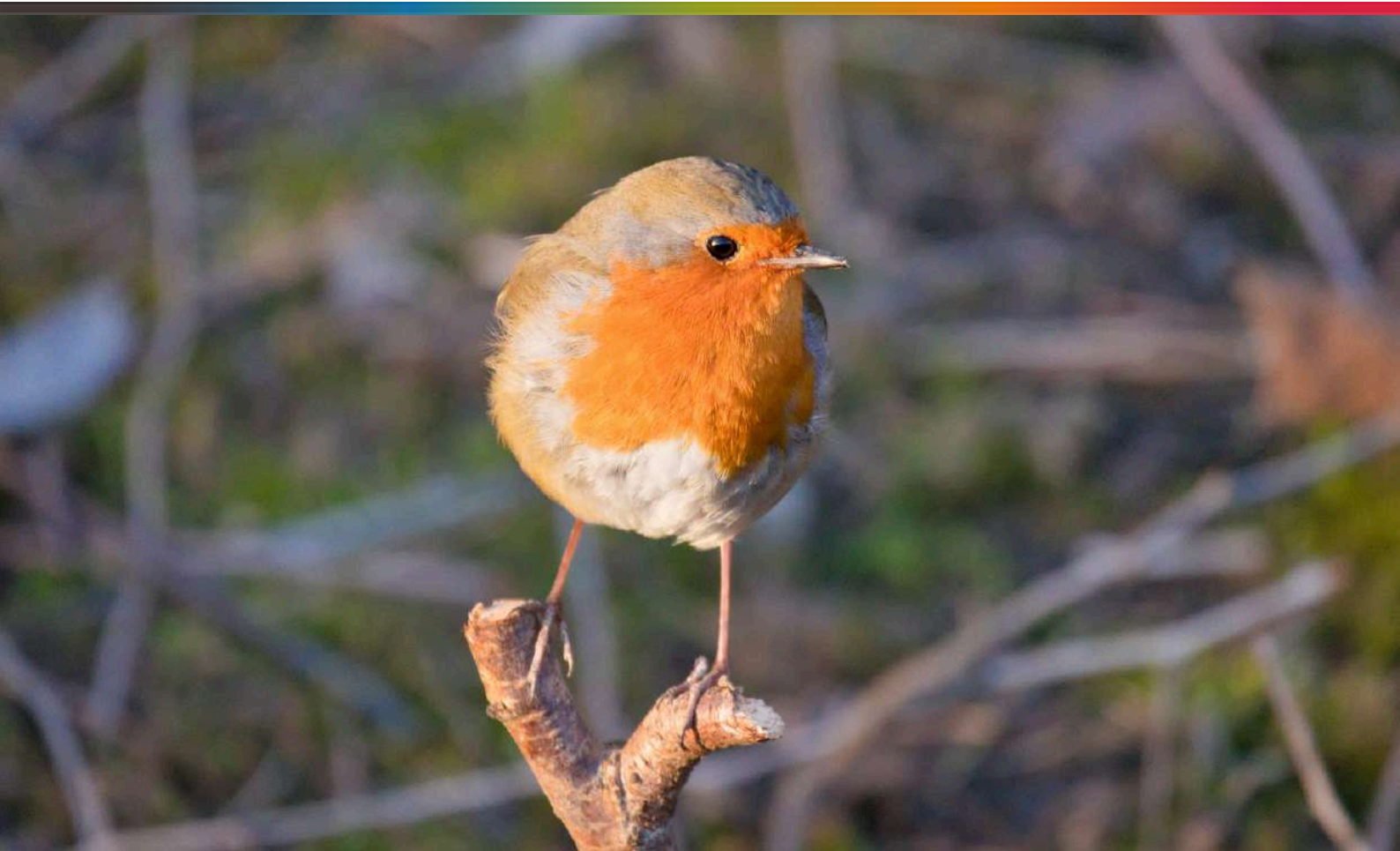
Our Environment Centre, though leading edge and fit for purpose when it was built over 20 years ago, is now in need of a major retrofit and extension. The charity has grown substantially, and we are more aware of the limitations of the space we have for our teams, participants, volunteers, and community, so the design and layout of the building need a significant overhaul in order to help our space work better for everyone.

COVID significantly changed how the building was used, and we have now re-consulted all user groups and are working with Native architects on a revised design to submit for planning approval. Once a design is approved, we start the very significant task of securing major funding to undertake this, combined with the logistics of ensuring our activities continue to run smoothly throughout any building work.

Our commitment to the VCSE Collaborative continues, to ensure that we have a voice and representation in the provision of care and services through all channels including the Integrated Care Board.

We remain close to aspects of the relaunch of the Climate Commission in York and the various working groups, many of which interconnect and touch into work that we undertake.

Finally, we are keeping a very close watch on the progression of discussions around Natural Capital, and what opportunities this may hold for St Nicks in the longer term.



Who we are



Trustees

Stuart Leslie (Chair)
Jonathan Exon (Vice Chair)
Emma Beddington
Martin Crosby (from May 2023)
Samuel Crutchley (from February 2024)
Savannah Green
Suzanne Fagence Cooper
Adrian Lovett
Jamie Sims

Patron

Kate Pickett

Staff

Ellie Stead, CEO
Mark Claridge, Caretaker (until January 2024)
Jonathan Dent, Green Corridors Manager
Eliza Fergusson, Charity Support Manager
Abi Gibbons, Community Engagement Officer
Maria Gill, Green Corridors Officer - Foss

Beki Hagger, Green Corridors Officer
Rachel Hall, Ecotherapy Officer
David Hammond, Recycling Officer
Charlotte Hanson, Recycling Officer
Marc Hodgson, Recycling Officer
Ivana Jakubková, Sustainability Officer (until June 2023)
Chris King, Recycling Officer
Freya Lovett, Green Mentor (until March 2024)
Jane Mackay, Thriving at Work Officer
Maeve Milliken, Green Corridors Trainee (from July 2023)
Eithne Philips, Project Officer
Sam Taylor, Waste & Recycling Manager
Eleanor Tookey, Ecotherapy Officer
Nicola Ward, Green Corridors Officer - Ouse
Staurt Watling, Recycling Officer
Jo Young, Nature-based Wellbeing Manager (until March 2024)

"I feel that our team celebrate each other's contribution. This is due to the caring and appreciative environment created by our manager and shared by each other"

- Staff survey response , 2023

Volunteers

We would like to thank our volunteers for their efforts, energy and enthusiasm: across educational activities, green corridor sites, park rangers, citizen scientists, eco-crafters, helping events to run smoothly, corporate groups... the list goes on and we are so grateful for every single person who generously shares their time and skills to help make York a place where people value wildlife, the environment and each other equally to sustain a rich and healthy life for all.

Governance and risk management

The Friends of St Nicholas Fields is a registered CIO (charity number 1153739). In line with our Constitution, the Board of Trustees may appoint up to twelve trustees, who are ratified by our members at the Annual General Meeting. Trustees are selected and appointed based on the skills they bring to the charity.

The Board of Trustees and senior management team regularly review our risk register in order to govern effectively and mitigate any identified risks. In relation to some of our higher scoring risks, we have made good progress in addressing potential issues around securing continuity of funding (financial), economic and political changes (external), and succession planning (governance).

Overall, the Board of Trustees of St Nicks have given consideration to the most significant risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that appropriate and proportional systems and procedures are in place to mitigate those risks.

Financial activities 2023/4

In 2023/2024 St Nicks generated income of £655,526 against £582,172 in the previous year. Total expenditure amounted to £654,883 (2022/2023 £617,228). The net result of the charity for the year is a surplus of £654 (2022/2023 deficit £35,056).

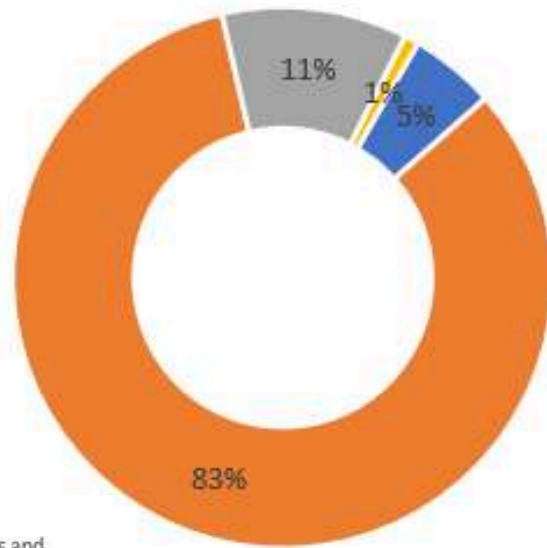
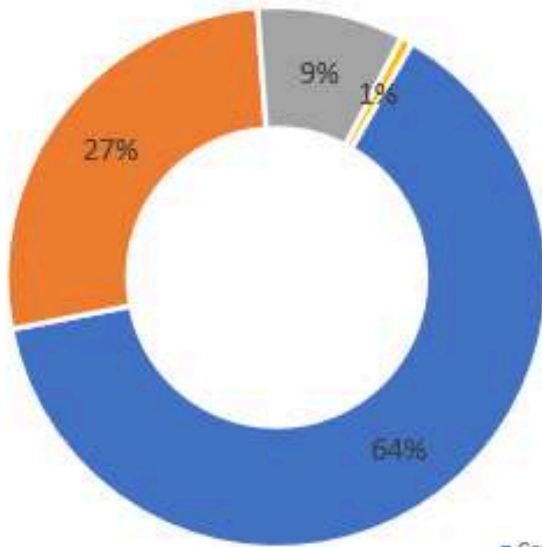
This virtual breakeven position is exactly as planned for the year end.

We are in the process of securing our partnership contract with City of York Council for a five-year period for residential recycling.

We remain thankful to all our funding partners this year, whose recognition of the value we provide has enabled us to be accredited as a Living Wage Employer. Thank you to all our members, supporters and hard-working volunteers as well as the fantastic team at St Nicks for a record year of results and outcomes.

2022-23

2023-24



- Grants, Donations and Legacies
- Charitable Activities
- Other Trading Activities
- Other

Thank you to our key supporters

Better Connect
 Brelms Trust
 City of York Council
 Department for Work and Pensions
 Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme
 Energy Savings Trust
 Environment Agency
 Ernest Cook Trust
 Groundwork
 Heworth Ward Committee
 Hey Smile Foundation
 Hull Road Ward Committee
 Joseph Rowntree Foundation
 Natural England
 Natural England Species Recovery Fund
 Seed Corn Fund
 Neighbourly
 Persimmon Homes
 Spark Fund

Tang Hall Big Local
 The National Lottery Community Fund
 The National Lottery Heritage Fund
 Two Ridings Community Foundation
 York CVS
 York St John University
 Yorkshire Water

Organisations donating funds or other support:

Latimer
 York CVS
 York Cares
 River Foss Society
 GoodGym
 North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre
 Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
 Foss Internal Drainage Board

Friends of St Nicholas Fields

(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Trustees Annual Report & Financial Statements for
the year ended

31st March 2024

outsource

Charity accounts preparation & independent examination
service

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

I report on the accounts of: Friends of St Nicholas Fields

for the year ended 31st March 2024 which are set out on pages 23 to 36.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the "2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Chartered Institute Of Management Accountants.

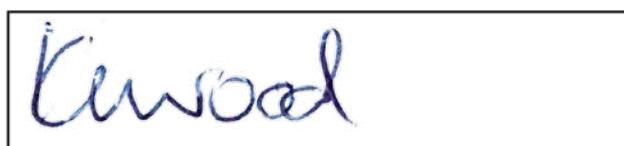
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Date: 7th November 2024

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended: 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3.1	33,727	-	33,727	20,474
Charitable activities	3.2	178,752	363,025	541,777	506,290
Other trading activities	3.3	72,525	117	72,642	51,100
Investments	3.4	1,835	-	1,835	285
Other	3.5	5,545	-	5,545	4,023
Total income	3	292,384	363,142	655,526	582,172
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4.1	457	28	485	3,579
Charitable activities	4.2	291,284	363,114	654,398	613,649
Total expenditure	4	291,741	363,142	654,883	617,228
Net income/(expenditure)		643	-	643	(35,056)
Gross transfers between funds		(60)	60	-	-
Net movement in funds		583	60	643	(35,056)
Total funds brought forward		132,465	297,866	430,331	465,387
Total funds carried forward		133,048	297,926	430,974	430,331

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Balance Sheet as at: 31st March 2024

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	7	298,793	295,645
Total fixed assets		<u>298,793</u>	<u>295,645</u>
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	8	154,886	206,013
Debtors & prepayments	9	68,133	72,007
Stock		-	-
Total current assets		<u>223,019</u>	<u>278,020</u>
Current liabilities: amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors and accruals	10	(90,838)	(143,334)
Net current assets		<u>132,181</u>	<u>134,686</u>
Net Assets		<u>430,974</u>	<u>430,331</u>
Funds of the Charity	11		
Unrestricted Funds (General)		133,048	132,465
Restricted Funds		297,926	297,866
Total Funds Carried Forward	11	<u>430,974</u>	<u>430,331</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on:

And signed on their behalf by:



Stuart Leslie, Chair of Trustees

Friends of St Nicholas Fields

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended:

31st March 2024

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	643	(35,056)
Add: Depreciation for the year	5,748	3,918
Working capital changes		
(Increase)/decrease in stock	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	3,874	(25,669)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(52,496)	(30,807)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(42,231)	(87,614)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	8,896	1,000
Disposal of fixed assets	-	-
	8,896	1,000
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(51,127)	(88,614)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2020	206,013	294,627
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2021	154,886	206,013

Notes to the accounts for the year ended:

31st March 2024

1 Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

1.2 Change of basis of accounting

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year.

1.3 Change to previous accounts

There has been some recategorisation of income and expenditure from last year. This does not affect the total figures.

2 Accounting policies

Income and endowments

Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- receipt of the resources is probable; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Incoming resources with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure, the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has evidence of entitlement to the resources and receipt is probable.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Investment income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Expenditure

Raising funds

Cost of raising funds comprise those costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable activities

Charitable activities expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £2000. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt, less depreciation.

Depreciation is provided at rates to write off the costs less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Office equipment	25%	straight line basis
Project equipment	25%	straight line basis
Computer equipment	33.33%	straight line basis
Adventure playground equipment	25%	straight line basis

Environment Centre

Depreciation is on a straight line basis in line with the lease length.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor.

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Notes to the accounts for the year ended:

31 March 2024

3 Income and endowments	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
3.1 Donations and legacies						
Donations	13,225	-	13,225	7,346	-	7,346
Legacies	5,000	-	5,000	3,106	-	3,106
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	15,502	-	15,502	10,022	-	10,022
	33,727	-	33,727	20,474	-	20,474
3.2 Charitable activities						
Grants	-	359,744	359,744	-	349,589	349,589
Wasre minimalisation	12,422	-	12,422	-	-	-
Recycling scheme	111,279	3,281	114,560	108,038	-	108,038
Recycling credits	13,643	-	13,643	25,655	-	25,655
Local Nature Reserve SLA	23,008	-	23,008	23,008	-	23,008
Habitat contract work	18,400	-	18,400	-	-	-
	178,752	363,025	541,777	156,701	349,589	506,290
3.3 Other trading activities						
Educational, lettings & rentals	2,815	117	2,932	1,339	225	1,564
Membership fees	1,453	-	1,453	800	-	800
Educational events	3,287	-	3,287	2,944	1,138	4,082
General sales	64,936	-	64,936	44,594	-	44,594
Shop sales	34	-	34	60	-	60
	72,525	117	72,642	49,737	1,363	51,100
3.4 Investments						
Bank interest	1,835	-	1,835	285	-	285
	1,835	-	1,835	285	-	285
3.5 Other						
Other sundry income	1,645	-	1,645	123	-	123
Open University - Branching out	3,900	-	3,900	3,900	-	3,900
JRS furlough grant	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5,545	-	5,545	4,023	-	4,023
Total income	292,384	363,142	655,526	231,220	350,952	582,172

4 Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds #	Total 2023 £
4.1 Raising funds						
Marketing & publicity costs	100	28	128	1,150	315	1,465
Purchases for resale	357	-	357	2,114	-	2,114
	<u>457</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>485</u>	<u>3,264</u>	<u>315</u>	<u>3,579</u>
4.2 Charitable activities						
Salaries	200,708	245,017	445,725	191,019	224,355	415,374
Staff training & other costs	125	3,410	3,535	4,873	4,528	9,401
Volunteer training & other costs	-	534	534	668	1,160	1,828
Rent & rates	344	89	433	810	282	1,092
Utilities	1,653	649	2,302	2,111	846	2,957
Cleaning, repairs & renewals	14,225	757	14,982	5,189	624	5,813
Health and safety & security	1,557	493	2,050	1,532	674	2,206
Telephone, IT & communications	6,721	2,777	9,498	2,143	2,214	4,357
Postage & stationery	2,753	1,167	3,920	1,697	707	2,404
Insurance	8,609	5,254	13,863	13,129	1,941	15,070
Memberships & subscriptions	1,352	531	1,883	2,707	1,086	3,793
Legal & professional fees	587	8,453	9,040	4,745	10,711	15,456
Resources & equipment	6,747	17,530	24,277	11,973	16,959	28,932
Project support	956	21,054	22,010	3,450	29,980	33,430
Other project costs	20,448	47,069	67,517	4,021	45,012	49,033
Accountancy fees	13,528	5,312	18,840	12,011	4,819	16,830
Bank charges	332	72	404	150	61	211
Event costs	3,032	-	3,032	1,197	332	1,529
Sundry expenses	2,641	-	2,641			
Bad debts & balances written off	839	1,325	2,164	12	3	15
Depreciation	4,127	1,621	5,748	2,796	1,122	3,918
	<u>291,284</u>	<u>363,114</u>	<u>654,398</u>	<u>266,233</u>	<u>347,416</u>	<u>613,649</u>
Total expenditure	<u>291,741</u>	<u>363,142</u>	<u>654,883</u>	<u>269,497</u>	<u>347,731</u>	<u>617,228</u>

5 Expenses & fees

No trustees received a remuneration for services rendered during the year, nor were any trustees' out of pocket expenses reimbursed.

5.1 Fees for examination of the accounts

	2024 £	2023 £
Independent Examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	<u>1,200</u>	<u>750</u>

6 Staff costs and emoluments

6.1 Staff costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Gross salaries	411,774	384,461
Employers National Insurance	25,780	23,659
Pension contributions	8,171	7,254
	<u>445,725</u>	<u>415,374</u>

6.2 Average number of full time equivalent employees by department

	2024	2023
Fundraising	2.00	2.00
Charitable activities	10.27	10.45
Governance	0.50	0.50
Other	2.00	2.00
Total	<u>14.77</u>	<u>14.95</u>

No employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000 (2023:Nil)

7 Fixed assets

2024	Leasehold Environment £	Office equipment £	General equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
7.1 Cost or valuation					
Balance b/fwd	324,111	-	64,820	-	388,931
Additions	-	-	8,896	-	8,896
Disposals	-	-	(63,820)	-	-
Balance c/fwd	<u>324,111</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,896</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>397,827</u>
Depreciation					
Balance b/fwd	29,466	-	63,820	-	93,286
Charge for year	3,274	-	2,474	-	5,748
Disposals	-	-	(63,820)	-	-
Balance c/fwd	<u>32,740</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,474</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>99,034</u>
Net book value					
31 March 2024	<u>291,371</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,422</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>298,793</u>
2023					
	Leasehold Environment £	Office equipment £	General equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
Balance b/fwd	324,111	-	63,820	-	387,931
Additions	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance c/fwd	<u>324,111</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>64,820</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>388,931</u>
Depreciation					
Balance b/fwd	26,192	-	63,176	-	89,368
Charge for year	3,274	-	644	-	3,918
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance c/fwd	<u>29,466</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,820</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>93,286</u>
Net book value					
31 March 2023	<u>294,645</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>295,645</u>

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	2023 £
8 Cash at bank and in hand				
Current bank account	-	-	-	32,380
CAF Cash account	14,996	-	14,996	84,055
CAF Gold account	40,345	-	40,345	20,095
Triodos	-	-	-	67,124
Virgin money giving	-	-	-	103
Go cardless	(30)	-	(30)	(117)
Cashplus business debit card	-	-	-	-
Flagstone Group Ltd	98,538	-	98,538	-
PayPal account	142	-	142	1,017
Soldo	575	-	575	737
Other cash in hand	320	-	320	619
	<u>154,886</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>154,886</u>	<u>206,013</u>

9 Debtors and prepayments

	2024 £	2023 £
Debtors and prepayments		
Trade debtors	45,238	36,947
Other debtors	415	472
Prepayments and accrued income	22,480	34,588
Total	<u>68,133</u>	<u>72,007</u>

10 Creditors and accruals

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	9,794	13,274
Deposits held	202	202
Accruals and deferred income	70,417	113,965
Tax and social security	10,425	15,893
Total	<u>90,838</u>	<u>143,334</u>

11 Movement of funds

11.1 Movement of major funds

2024 Fund name	Balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
Unrestricted funds (General)					
General unrestricted funds	124,714	279,962	291,741	(60)	112,875
Waste minimisation	7,751	12,422	-	-	20,173
	<u>132,465</u>	<u>279,962</u>	<u>291,741</u>	<u>(60)</u>	<u>133,048</u>
Restricted funds					
Environment Centre	294,645	-	-	-	294,645
Grants Central					
Energy redress	-	11,945	11,945	-	-
Kickstarter	(60)	-	-	60	-
Big Give	-	7,340	7,340	-	-
Grants Waste minimisation					
Precious plastic	3,281	3,850	3,850	-	3,281
Grants Green Spaces					
Brelms Trust	-	4,505	4,505	-	-
Green recovery	-	894	894	-	-
HR Park	-	15,471	15,471	-	-
York urban becks	-	3,459	3,459	-	-
York urban becks 2	-	46,526	46,526	-	-
Yorkshire water	-	3,964	3,964	-	-
National lottery heritage	-	49,036	49,036	-	-
NE Seedcorn	-	13,750	13,750	-	-
New to nature	-	16,329	16,329	-	-
Rawcliffe lake	-	2,063	2,063	-	-
Grants Nature & wellbeing					
Green influencers scheme	-	9,143	9,143	-	-
National lottery community fund	-	111,328	111,328	-	-
BLF 2	-	8,335	8,335	-	-
JRCT	-	6,379	6,379	-	-
CMHT	-	13,974	13,974	-	-
TRCF Green leaders	-	9,830	9,830	-	-
Deciding together	-	11,630	11,630	-	-
Two Ridings COL	-	7,570	7,570	-	-
Thriving at work	-	5,821	5,821	-	-
	<u>297,866</u>	<u>363,142</u>	<u>363,142</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>297,926</u>
Total Funds	<u>430,331</u>	<u>643,104</u>	<u>654,883</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>430,974</u>

Transfer of funds

The kickstarter fund has now finished and a transfer has been made to clear the balance.

2023 Fund name	Balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
Unrestricted funds (General)					
General unrestricted funds	153,950	231,220	269,497	9,041	124,714
Waste minimisation	-	-	-	7,751	7,751
	<u>153,950</u>	<u>231,220</u>	<u>269,497</u>	<u>16,792</u>	<u>132,465</u>
Restricted funds					
Environment Centre	302,299	-	-	(7,654)	294,645
Waste minimisation	7,751	-	-	(7,751)	-
TEVV 2	1,387	-	-	(1,387)	-
Grants Central					
Energy redress	-	21,135	21,195	-	(60)
Kickstarter	-	8,340	8,340	-	-
Building Capacities	-	8,364	8,364	-	-
Grants Waste minimisation					
Precious Plastic	-	4,814	1,533	-	3,281
Guildhall & binstore project	-	1,700	1,700	-	-
Grants Green Spaces					
Brelms Trust	-	6,012	6,012	-	-
CYC Fishergate ward	-	1,300	1,300	-	-
Green recovery	-	66,626	66,626	-	-
HR Park	-	59,447	59,447	-	-
York urban becks	-	3,258	3,258	-	-
Heworth Ward	-	90	90	-	-
Yorkshire water	-	15,586	15,586	-	-
Grants Nature & Wellbeing					
Green influencers scheme	-	18,563	18,563	-	-
National lottery community fund	-	64,670	64,670	-	-
HAF	-	6,847	6,847	-	-
Nature for all	-	9,950	9,950	-	-
Green social prescribing	-	9,768	9,768	-	-
NRN seed corn	-	8,857	8,857	-	-
Deciding together	-	6,867	6,867	-	-
Multiply	-	4,560	4,560	-	-
Thriving at work	-	24,198	24,198	-	-
	<u>311,437</u>	<u>350,952</u>	<u>347,731</u>	<u>(16,792)</u>	<u>297,866</u>
Total Funds	<u>465,387</u>	<u>582,172</u>	<u>617,228</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>430,331</u>

The waste minimisation fund has been recognised this year as a designated fund and not restricted as it is underspend that has been set aside for 'rainy day' spending.

The TEVV surplus has been transferred to unrestricted as there was an error resulting in underallocation in previous years. This fund has now been spent with no further reporting required by the funders.

11.2 Details of Funds Held

Unrestricted Funds (General)

The General fund is unrestricted and available for the general purposes of the Organisation.

Restricted Funds

The restricted funds are only available for the purposes specified for each fund, which are:

Environment Centre

A fund used towards building of the centre to provide environmental educational facilities.

Energy redress

Partnership project providing quality advice directly to householders in vulnerable situations underpinned by a 'whole house' approach.

Big Give

Funding provided for improvement Works to our environment centre

Precious plastic

To set up and test our own in house recycling system for plastics which will be used at events and workshops

Brelms Trust

Part fund salary of Natural Habitats Manager

Green recovery

National Lottery Heritage fund to kick start the creation and restoration of more, bigger, better and more joined up habitats across three landscape scale corridors and 22 sites across York Local Authority Area, including floodplain meadow, hedgerows, woodland and riparian habitat of the critically endangered tansy beetle

HR Park

Environmental Agency funding to restore natural processes of Osbaldwick Beck through Hull Road Park

York urban becks

City of York Council funds to undertake ecological surveys of Hull Road park and the wider Osbaldwick beck.

York urban becks 2

City of York Council funds to undertake ecological surveys of Hull Road park and the wider Osbaldwick beck.

Yorkshire water

Restore and enhance habitats along urban reaches of Tang Hall and Osbaldwick Becks

National lottery heritage

Green Corridors York Rivers and Floodplains - 3 year project connecting habitats and communities for nature recovery across York's rivers and floodplains

NE Seedcorn

Natural England seed corn fund to test out methods to engage more and wider range of people in natural conservation across Fulford Ings corridor

New to nature

Funding from Groundwork for a Green Corridors York trainee for 12 months. Trainees are paid a competitive wage for 12-months while gaining valuable hands-on experience in the environmental sector. This not only allows them to support themselves but also offers a stepping stone towards a fulfilling career.

Rawcliffe lake

Funding from Yorkshire Water Biodiversity Fund to enhance habitats around Rawcliffe Lake

Green influencers scheme

Two Ridings Community Foundation funding which funds our Green Mentor to run organised Green Influencer groups with schools and other youth organisations

National lottery community fund

Funding over 5 years (May 2018-May 2023) to fund the Ecotherapy Programme

BLF 2

Big Lottery Fund - Used to fund our Ecotherpay programme

JRCT

funded expansion of two additional weekly groups, Discover Nature and Discover Nature Closer Look, alongside additional staff time and two trips for the group participants.

CMHT

NHS commissioned funding for the Making Tracks project that tops up our Ecotherapy provision. Covering Foss Park allotment sessions, Making Tracks conservation sessions, and a proportion of Ecotherapy Officer (Green Corridors) and Ecotherapy Officer (Administration) staff hours.

TRCF Green leaders

An extension of the Green Influencers scheme facilitating Green Leaders groups at local primary schools aimed at Year 5 and 6 (ages 10-11), one with Pupil Referral Unit aimed at Years 6-8 (ages 11-13), and also engaged with York Mosque Scouts. Green Leaders aim was for groups to learn about types of environmental and conservation action, while building skills, confidence, and independence.

Deciding together

Via Two Ridings Community Foundation, this funding provided for a pilot for increasing partnership work around nature connectedness and mental wellbeing across York

Two Ridings COL

Warm Spaces provision last year, offering a warm space with food and hot drinks available, games to play, and referrals to foodbanks if needed. The warm space was open to all the community

Thriving at work

Government funded programme which allows us to deliver mental health awareness and resilience to small/medium enterprises and individuals in work.

12 Net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024
Balances at 31st March 2024	£	£	£
Fixed assets	4,148	294,645	298,793
Current assets	149,668	73,351	223,019
Current liabilities	(20,768)	(70,070)	(90,838)
	<u>133,048</u>	<u>297,926</u>	<u>430,974</u>
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
Balances at 31st March 2023	£	£	£
Fixed assets	1,000	294,645	295,645
Current assets	274,799	3,221	278,020
Current liabilities	(143,334)	-	(143,334)
	<u>132,465</u>	<u>297,866</u>	<u>430,331</u>






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(a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered as Friends of St Nicholas Fields, charity no. 1153739)

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FRIENDS OF ST NICHOLAS FIELDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1153739

Accounts



enjoy nature



get inspired



make a difference

Message from the Chair



It gives me great pleasure to present our Annual Report for 2022/23.

After a sustained period of rapid growth, we placed a premium on stabilisation this year, enabling successes to be embedded and the ongoing delivery of our growing range of activities to be secured. Notwithstanding this context we have enhanced the impact across all our core activities and continue to evolve in our priority areas of urban green space regeneration, nature-based wellbeing and sustainable living. Our award-winning recycling service increased its range of items collected, our habitat management work expanded to new sites, Ecotherapy hours increased year-on-year, and on energy efficiency, we hosted warm space events and helped more households install energy savings measures.

For a charity such as ours, increased ambition brings increased overheads. Like any organisation, we are sensitive to inflationary pressures and the impact an emerging cost of living crisis can have, both on our workforce and our benefactors.

We are delighted to have secured multi-year grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and National Lottery Community Fund, enabling us to further develop our Green Corridors work as well as our Ecotherapy and Education programmes. We have also taken steps to adapt our organisational design in response to how we have grown, with the management team assuming increased responsibility. Our secured funding and renewed focus on delivery gives us a strong platform for the years to come and we are grateful for the contributions we receive from all our funders.

This year I'd also like to highlight the ongoing support of our fantastic volunteers, who collectively contribute over 5,000 hours of their time to us. Against a backdrop where across the charity sector we see volunteer engagement in decline, it is a great source of pride that the St Nicks community binds people together and offers a welcoming experience to those volunteering with us for the first time.

We were delighted to see this community out in force once again at our events after a two-year hiatus. To experience over 500 people on the nature reserve for the Autumn Fayre was a real highlight and a great showcase for our surroundings and the activities we conduct both on-site and further afield. Our revived in-person events programme was a welcome reminder of our role within our local community and the support we appreciatively receive in return.

We welcomed Ellie Stead as our new CEO in April 2022, and it is fair to say she has very much hit the ground running in her first 12 months with us! Amongst our delight at Ellie's arrival, there was also sadness in May 2022 with the news that our long-time patron, Anneliese Emmans Dean, had passed away. Anneliese was involved at St Nicks for over 15 years and will be sadly missed by all of us. Her poetry remains loved by many for its ability to capture the joy of nature and our connection with it, and it feels only fitting to conclude this year's message in Annaliese's own words:

When the wren sings, sings long, sings loud,
When the wren sings, sings strong, sings proud,
When the wren sings, sings sweet, sings true,
When the wren sings, my heart sings too.

Stuart Leslie
Chair of the Board of Trustees
March 2023

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CEO's report

Having now seen St Nicks through all seasons of the year, I am continually surprised and delighted by the passion and strength of our team members and how we utilise our deep skills, knowledge and experience to benefit our communities and the environment in general.

Our success in securing a grant from National Lottery Heritage Fund to extend our Green Corridors programme shows how skilled we are at combining conservation and community in pragmatic and accessible ways through partnerships with multiple local groups and organisations.

A further grant from National Lottery Community Fund to expand our Ecotherapy and Education programmes for the next three years further demonstrates the positive impact and outcomes our activities have in improving mental health through nature connectedness and building resilience and understanding of nature with younger generations.

If those two programmes weren't enough to demonstrate we are experts in our somewhat eclectic combination of fields, we were also privileged to win Collection Crew of the Year at the Waste and Recycling Awards in May 2023!

We are fortunate to have secured funding to further develop our reach and cement our expertise through partnerships and local communities – we are immensely grateful to all our supporters, funders and volunteers to ensure that in times where the cost of living remains a reality we can continue to provide meaningful and significant benefit to all those who need us.

We launched our new website in the last year, improving accessibility and ensuring the site is easier to navigate and represents a much more accurate reflection of the progressive charity we are today. We have also made physical changes to our site to assist those with mobility challenges and continue to look for ways to improve access to our nature reserve and services across all dimensions. Our GPS nature trails through the reserve also launched this year can also be accessed via our website.

Above all else, we have worked hard to continually evolve and adapt to ensure we are keeping pace with economic pressures, changes in the charity sector and the needs of our communities and volunteers.

Ellie Stead, CEO



Why we do what we do: our purpose

If you look at the Charities Commission website or our Constitution, our stated purpose is to:

- Preserve and conserve the area known as St Nicholas Fields for the benefit and education of the public
- Educate the residents of York in principles and benefits of environmental and conservation issues and sustainability including recycling and waste reduction
- Provide facilities for residents with the aim of improving their conditions of life through social welfare and leisure

We do so much more than this at St Nicks, because it's not just the "what" we do, it's the "how" we do it. We are deeply committed to creating, building and supporting communities through nature. You won't find a more dedicated team of people - truly passionate about the difference they can make and how they can enable positive change through partnerships with others.

Significant Activities

We deliver our charitable aims in a number of ways:

Nature-based wellbeing

Ecotherapy: The Ecotherapy programme has continued with its roster of vital and over-subscribed nature-connectedness groups. Participating in these groups allows people with mental health challenges to improve their wellbeing through connections with nature. The need for these groups has never been greater, with a further 35 new enrolments, taking the 5-year total to 244. A new Ecotherapy Officer post has been created to link Ecotherapy activity to wider Green Corridors work, creating a recovery pathway which can now include a transition into mainstream conservation volunteering for those who feel ready.

Community support: The funded Thriving at Work programme entered its final months. Aiming to equip individual employees with the resources to thrive at work and to equip small to medium sized businesses in supporting employee's mental wellbeing, St Nicks have helped bring nature-connectedness to the workplace in diverse businesses across York. Funded by City of York Council to provide a Warm Space in response to winter pressures, the Nature-based Wellbeing team opened our doors on Thursday afternoons between November and March. Serving homemade soups and cakes, a warm welcome and varied 'Puzzling for Wellbeing' activities, we created a warm and hospitable hub which was treasured by those who came along.

Significant activities (continued)



Education and young people: We are running monthly Nature Adventurer groups and very popular holiday clubs, enabling children to grow in confidence, skills and passion about the natural world. Our Green Mentor leads groups of highly engaged young people in several York schools and youth organisations and school visits to St Nicks to learn about nature, sustainability and waste are very popular.

Green corridors York

Green Corridors York strives for “more, bigger, better and more joined up” greenspaces and initiatives. Between September 2021 and March 2023, we successfully implemented the Green Corridors concept across the three landscape scale corridors in York thanks to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

Nature conservation: The project worked with landowners and managers, community groups and businesses, schools and individual volunteers to enhance habitats including rivers and becks, meadow, woodland, wetlands and ponds. A joined-up corridors approach to nature conservation has benefitted the endangered Tansy beetle. The beetle requires suitable habitat at a minimum of 200-meter intervals as it does not fly, therefore needs to walk between habitats to mix with other populations to expand its range. The project has worked to bridge gaps in habitat by creating more habitat and managing invasive species and scrub to protect existing habitat.

Citizen science: Citizen science ecological monitoring collected species and habitat data to increase knowledge of sites to help with their conservation and protection. Survey work confirmed the presence of two healthy populations of endangered water voles across the corridors, habitat improvement work in these areas will allow these species the space to thrive. Joint working with the North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre has developed a working citizen science method for using UK Habitats Surveying and the Defra Biodiversity Metric to assess and measure habitats.

Wild York: The Wild York partnership (United by Design, Jai Sandhu, DogEatCog, St Nicks) has developed an online interactive map showing York’s green spaces, what habitat they provide, who looks after them, and what you can do there. The Wild York website is currently under further development to include information on key species and habitats, including survey data, conservation issues and solutions we can implement.

Habitat services: The Green Corridors project helped build capacity at St Nicks through the developing St Nicks Habitat Services work. This included delivering contract work for national, regional and local bodies including Froglife, Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Joseph Rowntree Housing



Trust, the Environment Agency, City of York Council, plus private landowners and Parish Councils. Work has included floodplain meadow restoration, pond creation and delivering community engagement activities. Income has increased from £18,000 to £39,000 in the last year, allowing us to invest more into our Green Corridors approach.

Waste minimisation

Residential & commercial recycling collections:

This year we have increased the types of materials we can collect from our residents and commercial customers to include type 5 plastics and cables, leads and wires. The area we collect business recycling from has also increased, with multiple customers in Fulford, Clifton and New Earswick. We have also, proudly taken on the responsibility of managing the foil drop off locations around the city from Foil for Snappy. These are located at various public car parks and household waste recycling sites around the city.

Vehicles: In 2022/23 we also secured funding to buy two new E-Cargo tricycles which have helped us achieve the highlights above. Our pedal powered trike is still in use, whilst the other we have donated to the Green Spaces Team.

Sustainable living: We have held multiple school sessions teaching children about the issues around single use plastic and enabled them to get hands on with our Precious Plastic York machinery. We have also increased recycling rates at numerous houses of multiple occupancy and flats around the city thanks to a project funded by Guildhall Ward.



Reducing carbon emissions

Energy advice & support: We have continued to provide a free energy advice service for York residents who are either on a low income, or aged 65+ or experiencing a long term health condition or disability. This partnership between St Nicks and York Community Energy is funded through the Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme, and supported by Yorkshire Energy Doctor as well as other local partners.

Fuel vouchers; We have issued these on behalf of the City of York Council to qualifying York residents who need help with meeting their energy costs meeting energy costs.

Eco Homes events: Around a third of York’s carbon emissions come from the way we heat and power our homes. Making them much more energy efficient brings numerous benefits so we facilitate information sharing and understanding of energy saving home upgrades via our York Open Eco Homes event series.



Strategy to meet our purpose

Our **vision** is to enable thriving and connected biodiverse communities.

Our **mission** is to build and connect flourishing communities through urban greenspace regeneration, nature-based wellbeing and sustainable living.

Our activities are underpinned by our **values**: Collaboration, Integrity, Innovation and Professionalism.

Our **strategy** to meet and deliver to our purpose comprises of three core elements:

- Urban greenspace regeneration: **Nature**
- Improve wellbeing through nature connectedness: **People**
- Empower communities to flourish sustainable: **Planet**

The key drivers for this strategic approach are embedded within and across all our activities:



Nature

Design, lead and deliver innovative projects that regenerate, transform and connect greenspaces and their support groups across the Vale of York and beyond.

People

Provide inclusive specialist nature-based support to improve mental and physical wellbeing, building individual and community resilience.

Planet

Promote carbon neutral and zero waste lifestyles and provide services that encourage and enable communities to develop sustainably and thrive.

Areas of focus for coming year & future aspirations



By Joel Fergusson

Our people are undoubtedly our biggest asset at St Nicks and their wellbeing and growth is important to us in our commitment to them as individuals but also to the continued evolution of St Nicks.

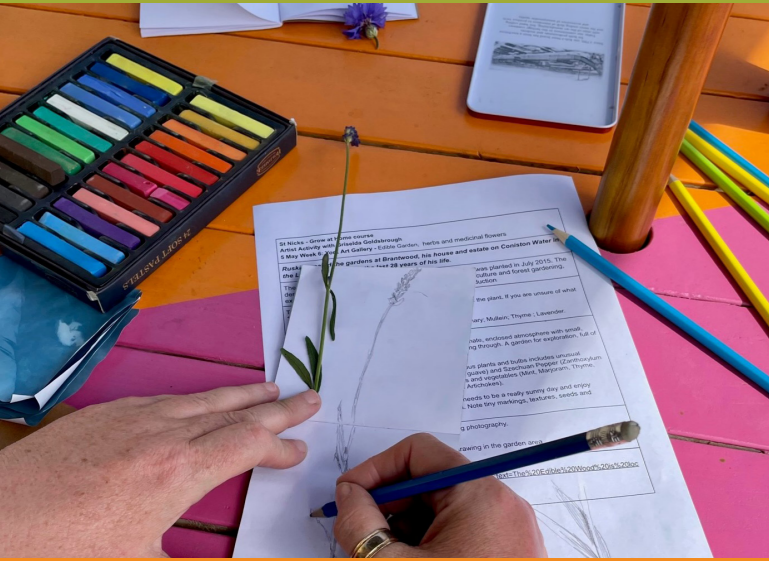
As well as an extensive Team Member survey to ensure we are continually improving how we work together effectively, we are investing in several training programme to invest in our people. This engagement and investment will continue to enable us to give back to the communities in which we operate, share knowledge and expertise and continue to innovate.

Following support and engagement we have provided through our mental health expertise via the Thriving at Work programme to local companies and their employees, we are working through a full assessment against the “Mental Health at Work” scheme for our own team members at St Nicks, and hope to make further progress on this during the coming year.

**MENTAL
HEALTH
AT WORK
COMMITMENT**

After securing two separate National Lottery grants for our Ecotherapy and Green Corridors work, our attention on fundraising will now shift to our Environment Centre. In 2024 the Centre will be 20 years old and although it was state of the art when built, our continued evolution means that it is not truly fit for the charity we are today and where we want to be in the future. Any extension and/or retrofit is likely to be a multi-year project and we will have to map out significant logistical challenges to ensure we can continue to run all activities while we undertake such a huge change to our working space. This is obviously reliant on securing significant funding to undertake this work, costs for which have increased significantly in recent years.

St Nicks: key achievements in 2022/23



Ecotherapy

3,900 participant course hours delivered

363 hours of one-to-one mentoring and assessments delivered

35 new enrolments to Ecotherapy

89% of those attending drop-in or warm spaces events said that being at St Nicks made them feel less isolated

558.5 tonnes of business and residential recycling collected and hand sorted

100% sent for recycling within the UK

0% contamination so no materials are rejected by reprocessors and incinerated

£3,950 from materials sent to Terracycle

12 public drop-off locations for recycling maintained, with five new this year

Minimising waste



Green corridors

89 hectares

of habitat (over 200 football pitches) of wildlife habitat improved across York

455 volunteers trained to help manage sites for wildlife

1,400 tansy plants planted to create and improve Tansy beetle habitat

810 people engaged with across the city at information events

41 new Citizen Scientists recruited

31 local groups helped through St Nicks' support hub

£5,500 saved by helping residents to challenge incorrect bills and chase rebates

51 households provided with emergency fuel vouchers

640 households advised and supported

132 homes had simple energy saving measures installed

24,000 kWh estimated amount of energy saved per year thanks to the installed energy efficiency measures

Reducing carbon emissions



Achievements: Nature-based wellbeing



“

I came away with a sense of achievement and I haven't felt that for a long time. It was really therapeutic.

”

St Nicks have been awarded several significant funding grants to be able to not only continue with the Ecotherapy programme, but to develop and grow it. Over the next three years we will aim to reach many more adults with mental health challenges. The number of groups has grown, including sessions on a Friday where there was previously a gap in provision. We are running an Ecotherapy group alongside occupational health teams in Foss Park hospital and holding friendly, informal drop-in days co-designed by participants.

"Thank you to the St Nicks team for putting on the Warm Space afternoons. I have found them a real boost to my mood and wellbeing. They've been a safe and inclusive space to socialise which is often so difficult for many of us, and something I've not found anywhere else. Thank you."

Co-design and a sense of belonging have been the drivers for a creative revamp of our Ecotherapy chalet, where the artistic and practical talents of group members have been unleashed! Our relationships with Social Prescribers and other referral agencies across the city have strengthened and we are reaching a more diverse group of people in need.

"As someone struggling with my mental health, it is very difficult to feel comfortable in this kind of environment, but St Nicks is a welcoming friendly place."

1:1 mentoring continues to be in very high demand with 363 hours delivered by one team member alone. The Grow at Home group ran through summer of 2022, funded by a grant from the Guild of St George. Fascinating and engaging Ecotherapy activities linked and inspired by the work of John Ruskin were delivered over a number of months and provided much food for thought with regards to similarly scoped groups in the future.

We were part of the successful Department of Work and Pensions-funded Thriving at Work scheme, where we contributed to outputs which exceeded the targets. We cherish the skill set that this project gave our team and we will continue to provide this type of support in a new format. All the stories in this project were inspiring, but one St Nicks case study in particular was very emblematic of the value of the project. In this example, two employees and the business were simultaneously, but separately supported: the outcomes for all were so striking that it was developed into a film for use by the Department in future.



Similarly, we outperformed expectations in the Green Influencers project, and will continue the work of generating groups of engaged, active, inquisitive and confident young green champions across York. The Green Influencer project has been particularly effective at reaching those groups that experience barriers to accessing nature; ethnic minorities, travelling communities and pupils with special educational and behavioural needs in particular.

"It has been hugely rewarding for all our pupils who have found a sense of belonging, purpose and sense of achievement ... The impact on pupil's mental health has been considerable! This facilitation has developed confidence and trust in some of our most vulnerable pupils."

"I found the Bushcraft group so helpful and it has helped me so much to think more positively and have more confidence."

Achievements: Green Corridors



“ It has given our volunteers a sense of being able to help improve our green spaces and community. ”



Successful partnership work with Natural England ensured that rare floodplain meadow habitat at Fulford Ings received a hay cut in 2022 after multiple years without appropriate management. Through engagement with local farmers, York University and Natural England we are working on setting up a longer-term agreement to maintain this.

Branding and educational tools were developed to increase the visibility of Green Corridors York and provide innovative methods of engaging communities. A Green Corridors animation (<https://vimeo.com/778910119/0fc196f445>) is used for events and education. A logo was created to use on all project literature, signage and posters. A prototype transportable education tool was developed to tell the stories of our corridors and the habitats and species they support, why they are at risk and achievable solutions.

Working with the River Foss Society and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust we successfully established a citizen science project to survey and monitor water voles, and their non-native predator's American mink, across 19km of the River Foss as part of the Yorkshire Water Vole Project.

The Hull Road Park Beck Restoration project successfully restored the natural processes of a heavily modified, often stagnant, 1km section of Osbaldwick Beck.

The beck is now full of wildlife including regularly sighted little egrets and herons. 279 species were recorded during a half day mini-bioblitz event last summer!

The Green Corridors York project is currently being externally evaluated as an 'excellent case study' to showcase project delivery and learning from Green Recovery Challenge funding.



“St Nicks are a key on-the-ground delivery partner in the Tansy Beetle Action Group (a group of local organisations focused on the beetle's conservation). They have been undertaking actions for habitat management for the beetle along the River Ouse, as well as supporting awareness raising. The Green Corridor York project is a key project in the delivery of this plan and so underpin recovery efforts for the Tansy Beetle.”

Vicky Wilkins, Species Recovery Trust

Making St Nicks more accessible

2022/23 saw us secure funding for, and install a handrail to make the slope into our garden more user friendly. The feedback since the installation has been resoundingly positive. We also achieved level 2 as Disability Confident Employers which employers sign up to voluntarily and take action to improve how they recruit, retain and develop disabled people.

Our biggest success for improving our accessibility this year came when 11 staff successfully completed their level 1 British Sign Language qualification. Our Nature based wellbeing team have made great use of these new skills already and our recycling team have also utilised these skills whilst out on collection with members of the public. We are seeking funding to continue to build on our skills in BSL.

We have also been developing our website with support from SeeGreen to make our online material more user-friendly and accessible to a wider range of people. The new website will go live in April 2023.

Achievements: Waste minimisation



“ Thank you for a year of faultless service ... you just get on and do a perfect job every time, week in, week out. Well done and thank you! ”

There were a few big changes in what waste can be recycled in York in 2022. Foil for snappy closed down and in honour of the amazing legacy Karen – founder of Foil for Snappy – we agreed to take on the busiest collection points and collections from the household waste recycling sites. Since November 2022, we have been collecting foil from recycling points in supermarket car parks and from both Strensall and Hazel Court recycling sites.

The other major change was that type five plastics are now recyclable at the kerbside. Type five plastics include products such as ice cream tubs, margarine tubs and yoghurt pots, and they have long been the most common item people included by mistake in their weekly recycling collections. Being able to finally accept them was a relief for all members of the recycling team! The massive increase in plastics collected means we have had to increase the size and number of plastic skip exchanges we have from St Nicks. Luckily our e-trikes (which are now a year old!) and our two hardy Goupils are more than up to the task.

Despite the increase in plastic types collected, the year 2022/23 actually saw a decline in the mass of residential recycling we collected: down by 10 tonnes from the year before to 416.

However when reviewing the data from our recycling, the composition of the waste collected has changed: in previous years the amount of paper – a traditionally heavy material especially when it comes to magazines and books – has been much higher. We are seeing a steady decline in the amount of people regularly putting papers and magazines in their recycling boxes. Obviously come winter festivities the amount of paper peaks for a week or two after December 25th...

In contrast, though our business recycling has seen an increase in weight from 142.5tonnes in 2021/22 up to 155.3tonnes in 2022/23.

With over 300 regular, one off and event recycling customers it is no surprise that the amounts of commercial recycling we collect continues to increase.



Unfortunately, progress on our Precious Plastic York project had to slow as the growth of other departments within the organisation has meant that our space is at a premium. As our team have been working at events, sorting Terracycle and running our Zero Waste York Facebook group we have still been as busy as ever. We are hopeful that we will be able to hit the ground running with it in 2024 and beyond.



Events 2022/23

This year saw our first major events post-COVID with the welcome return of our annual Ceilidh, Winter Concert and Autumn Fayre as well as a new “taster” day to help ensure our communities are aware of ALL that we do – our mix of activities is somewhat eclectic! Our Autumn Fayre saw the heaviest attendance to date with a fantastic age range and set of activities provided for free by the St Nick’s team and our volunteers and supporters. Keep an eye on our newsletter and website for upcoming events.

Achievements: Reducing carbon, improving lives



“ I can't tell you just how much you've helped. I don't feel like I'm going to have to go cold this winter anymore. - Ms KM ”

York Energy Advice

This joint project with York Community Energy (YCE) went from strength to strength in its second year. The friendly team spoke to or supported over 640 local vulnerable households on their energy issues. Thousands of pounds were saved on bills thanks to our supplier intervention. During 287 visits, more than 130 homes had some simple energy efficiency measures installed such as LED light bulbs or draught-proofing. Together these are estimated to save almost 24,000 kWh per year – the equivalent of two years' worth of gas consumption in an average household. The service also shows how improving energy efficiency is such a big win-win for both people and the planet through reducing bills, increasing comfort and reducing carbon emissions.

The project team were also busy securing further funding beyond the original grant from the Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme. Thanks to an already blossoming partnership with Age UK and Older Citizens Advocacy York, they were able to get a grant from City of York Council's Financial Inclusion Steering Board to focus more on people aged 50+. More funding has followed and YCE is now ready to take the project onto the next level.

Although St Nicks will continue to work with the community benefit society, York Energy Advice will become YCE's own project from June 2023. Over time they aim to turn the service into a one-stop-shop for anyone needing advice and support on any energy-related issue, including home retrofits. For more information or referral, see www.yorkenergyadvice.org.uk or call 01904 922249.

York Open Eco Homes and Other Events

Our partnership with York Community Energy gave rise to several themed events in our York Open Eco Homes series. The annual open-door event enabled 150 visits to 5 local homes at varying stages of being retrofitted for energy efficiency, greater comfort and reduced carbon emissions. Knowing that a third of York's carbon emissions comes from the way we heat and power our homes is a strong motivator for doing all we can to encourage more residents to tackle those.

To further help share knowledge and experiences we also ran a couple of “Eco Homes Café” events and an introductory course on “Energy Saving Home Upgrades” in conjunction with York Learning and Retrofit+ Architecture. These proved popular with around 60 people attending. Unfortunately, improving homes is not always very simple. Although the events generated positive feedback, they also highlighted the complexity and unaffordability of extensive upgrades. These are required in most UK homes if we are to adequately address the climate crisis and fuel poverty. Raising awareness of the need and some of the solutions is our contribution to the process.

We use many ways to also raise the profile of St Nicks and what we do in the city. Talks and tours for various audiences are particularly enjoyable. This year we engaged with over a hundred people, including on site tours for York St John's and Sheffield Hallam students and a talk for the Ladies Circle.

“York Energy Advice service helped me when I was in a difficult situation. When it comes to practical support, I received a visit regarding energy consumption and energy efficiency of the house. I also received financial and emotional support because I felt supported and I was no longer alone with this problem. I highly recommend this service.” - Ms B



Financial activities 2022/23

In 2022/23 St Nicks generated income of £582,172 against £577,865 in the previous year. Total expenditure amounted to £617,228 (2021/22: £509,376), an increase of £107,852 compared to the previous year. The net results of the charity for the year is a deficit of £35,056 (2021/22 – Surplus £68,489). This deficit was planned last year, in partial support of activities we wished to complete and in partial utilisation of the surplus from the previous year. This expenditure was in part to ensure our team members received a sufficient pay rise to accommodate significant increases in cost of living expenses. A further one of cost of living payment will be made to all staff in October 2023 (to be approved by Trustees in August 2023) as part of the commitment made regarding salary increases. This will still result in a net surplus (and contribution to reserves) across the two years 2021/22 and 2022/23.

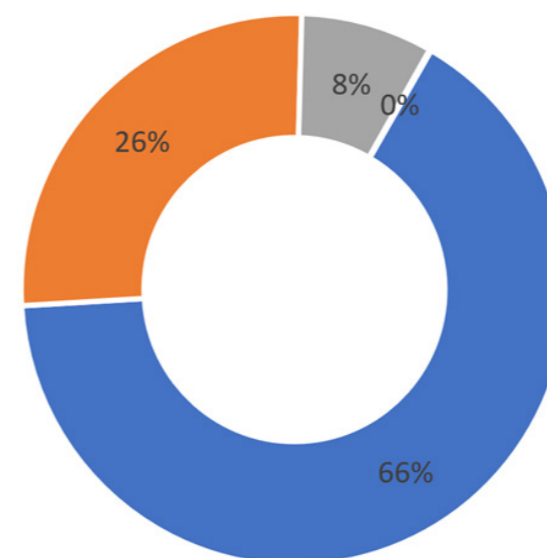
At the end of the first quarter of 2023 as we came to our year end, we were delighted to have secured two significant grants from both National Lottery Heritage Fund and National Lottery Community Fund to enable us to expand our Green Corridors York pilot and to extend cover for our Ecotherapy programme for a further three years. We will soon commence dialogue with City of York Council in relation to our contract in relation to residential recycling, which is due to come to the close of the current term in March 2024.

We remain thankful to all our funding partners and supporters, volunteers and members and to the entire team at St Nicks who have worked incredibly hard to deliver an outstanding set of results.

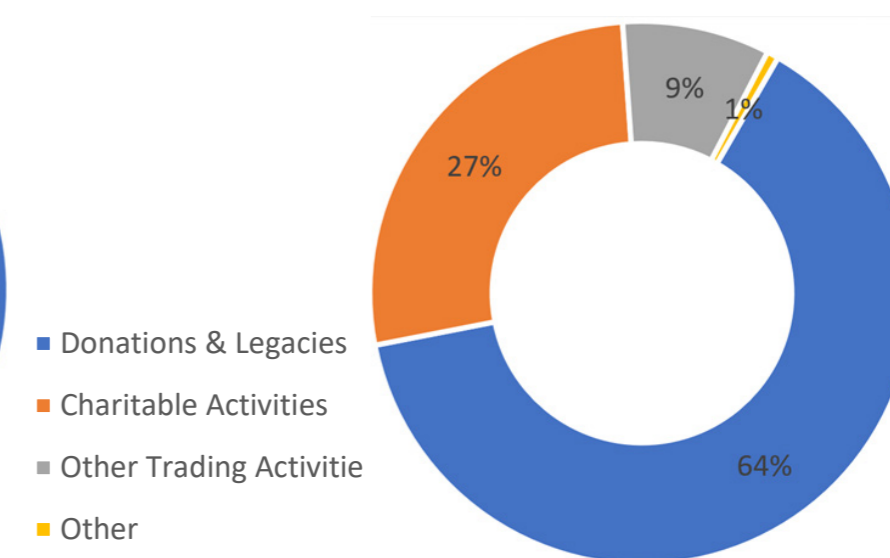
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended: 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3.1	20,474	349,589	370,063	379,822
Charitable activities	3.2	156,701	-	156,701	152,337
Other trading activities	3.3	49,737	1,363	51,100	45,175
Investments	3.4	285	-	285	24
Other	3.5	4,023	-	4,023	507
Total income	3	231,220	350,952	582,172	577,865
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4.1	2,114	-	2,114	415
Charitable activities	4.2	267,383	347,731	615,114	508,961
Total expenditure	4	269,497	347,731	617,228	509,376
Net income/(expenditure)		(38,277)	3,221	(35,056)	68,489
Gross transfers between funds		15,405	(15,405)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(22,872)	(12,184)	(35,056)	68,489
Total funds brought forward		153,950	311,437	465,387	396,898
Total funds carried forward		131,078	299,253	430,331	465,387

2021-22



2022-23



Thank you to our key supporters

Better Connect
 Belms Trust
 City of York Council
 Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
 Department for Work and Pensions
 Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme
 Energy Savings Trust
 Environment Agency
 Ernest Cook Trust
 Green Recovery Fund
 Heworth Ward Committee
 Hey Smile Foundation
 Hull Road Ward Committee
 Joseph Rowntree Foundation
 Kick Start Scheme
 Natural England Seed Corn Fund
 Neighbourly
 Persimmon Homes
 Spark Fund
 Tang Hall Big Local
 The National Lottery Community Fund

The National Lottery Heritage Fund
 Two Ridings Community Foundation
 York CVS
 Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust
 Yorkshire Water

Organisations donating funds or other support

Illingworths Insurance & Financial Services
 York CVS
 York Cares
 River Foss Society
 GoodGym

Special thanks go to Lewis Outing who took lots of our great pictures.

Who we are



Board of Trustees and management team at St Nicks

Our management team have worked together closely over the last twelve months to ensure we are working together seamlessly and leveraging each other's skills and expertise. We are also working together with our Board of Trustees to ensure that we have clarity and commonality of purpose and a shared view on all aspects of our future strategy and direction. The picture above is from a recent strategy session – it's important that we also continue to have fun when we do our deep thinking sessions where we sometimes have healthy debate on some fronts!

We continue to provide intensive volunteering programmes to multiple Park Rangers to build knowledge and skills for future roles and careers in conservation and habitat management. We have also been fortunate to secure funding for a place on the New to Nature programme for a full-time trainee for 12 months in 2023/24.

We continue to work on equality, diversity and inclusion and our new Trustees bring different lived experiences to our Board.

"There are lots of amazing things about working at St Nicks, like how interesting and diverse our job roles are and that we get to work with nature and help people to connect with it"

Staff survey, 2023

Trustees

Stuart Leslie (Chair)

Sarah Middleton (Vice Chair - until December 2022)

Judith Rigg (Secretary - until February 2023)

Jonathan Exon (Treasurer, Vice Chair from December 2022)

Nick Coad (until October 2022)

Lars Kramm (until May 2022)

Jane Thurlow (until December 2022)

Sebastian O'Connor (until May 2022)

Adrian Lovett

Emma Beddington

Jamie Sims (from December 2022)

Suzanne Fagence Cooper (from December 2022)

Savannah Green (from December 2022)

Patrons

Kate Pickett

Chief Officer

Ellie Stead

Other staff

Mark Claridge, Caretaker

Beth Clarkson, Green Corridors Trainee (from January 2022 to June 2022)

Jonathan Dent, Natural Habitats Manager

Rebecca Dunn, Recycling Officer

Eliza Fergusson, Charity Support Manager

Abi Gibbons, Community Engagement Officer

Maria Gill, Ecology Officer

Beki Hagger, Green Corridors Officer

Rachel Hall, Ecotherapy Assistant

David Hammond, Recycling Officer

Charlotte Hanson, Recycling Officer

Marc Hodgson, Recycling Officer

Ivana Jakubková, Sustainability Officer

Chris King, Recycling Officer

Freya Lovett, Green Mentor

Jane Mackay, Thriving at Work Officer

Eithne Phillips, Green Corridors Trainee (from December 2021 to June 2022), Project Officer (from June 2022)

Sam Taylor, Waste & Recycling Manager

Eleanor Tookey, Ecotherapy Officer

Nicola Ward, Habitats Officer

Stuart Watling, Recycling Officer

Jo Young, Nature Based Wellbeing Manager

Risk management

We have significantly updated our risk approach with a comprehensive risk register and new risk policy per Best Practice. The register is reviewed regularly by both the Senior Management Team and the Board of Trustees.

In relation to some of our highest scoring risks we have made good progress in mitigating these, particularly succession planning (governance), economic and political changes (external), cybersecurity (operational & external) and IT controls (operational). We have also discussed, reviewed and added emerging risks such as Artificial Intelligence to ensure we remain mindful and conscious of wider changes in our working environment.

Overall, the Trustees of St Nicks have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks.

Friends of St Nicholas Fields

(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Trustees Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2023



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

I report on the accounts of: **Friends of St Nicholas Fields**

for the year ended **31st March 2023** which are set out on pages 26 to 39.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the "2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Chartered Institute Of Management Accountants.

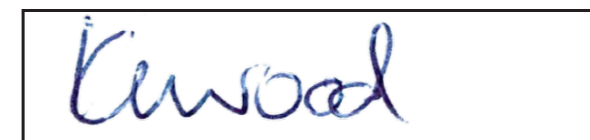
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Karen Wood ACMA CGMA

Date:

Statement of financial activities

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended: 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3.1	20,474	349,589	370,063	379,822
Charitable activities	3.2	156,701	-	156,701	152,337
Other trading activities	3.3	49,737	1,363	51,100	45,175
Investments	3.4	285	-	285	24
Other	3.5	4,023	-	4,023	507
Total income	3	231,220	350,952	582,172	577,865
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4.1	2,114	-	2,114	415
Charitable activities	4.2	267,383	347,731	615,114	508,961
Total expenditure	4	269,497	347,731	617,228	509,376
Net income/(expenditure)		(38,277)	3,221	(35,056)	68,489
Gross transfers between funds		16,792	(16,792)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(21,485)	(13,571)	(35,056)	68,489
Total funds brought forward		153,950	311,437	465,387	396,898
Total funds carried forward		132,465	297,866	430,331	465,387

Balance sheet

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Balance Sheet as at: 31st March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	7	295,645	298,563
Total fixed assets		295,645	298,563
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	8	206,013	294,627
Debtors & prepayments	9	72,007	46,338
Stock		-	-
Total current assets		278,020	340,965
Current liabilities: amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors and accruals	10	(143,334)	(174,141)
Net current assets		134,686	166,824
Net Assets		430,331	465,387
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted Funds (General)	11	132,465	153,950
Restricted Funds		297,866	311,437
Total Funds Carried Forward	11	430,331	465,387

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on:

And signed on their behalf by:

Trustee

Statement of cash flows

Friends of St Nicholas Fields

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended: 31st March 2023

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	(35,056)	68,489
Add: Depreciation for the year	3,918	29,184
Working capital changes		
(Increase)/decrease in stock	-	1,224
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(25,669)	(8,227)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(30,807)	2,754
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(87,614)	93,424
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	1,000	-
Disposal of fixed assets	-	-
	1,000	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(88,614)	93,424
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2020	294,627	201,203
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2021	206,013	294,627

Notes to the accounts

Friends of St Nicholas Fields (Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Notes to the accounts for the year ended: 31st March 2023

1 Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

1.2 Change of basis of accounting

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year.

1.3 Change to previous accounts

No changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

2 Accounting policies

Income and endowments

Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- receipt of the resources is probable; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Incoming resources with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure, the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has evidence of entitlement to the resources and receipt is probable.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Investment income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Expenditure

Raising funds

Cost of raising funds comprise those costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable activities

Charitable activities expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £2000. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt, less depreciation.

Depreciation is provided at rates to write off the costs less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Office equipment	25%	straight line basis
Project equipment	25%	straight line basis
Computer equipment	33.33%	straight line basis
Adventure playground equipment	25%	straight line basis

Environment Centre

Depreciation is on a straight line basis in line with the lease length.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor.

Notes to the accounts for the year ended:

31 March 2023

3 Income and endowments

2023

2022

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3.1 Donations and legacies						
Donations	7,346	-	7,346	21,836	-	21,836
Legacies	3,106	-	3,106	-	-	-
Gift Aid	-	-	-	190	-	190
Grants:	10,022	349,589	359,611	79,162	278,634	357,796
	20,474	349,589	370,063	101,188	278,634	379,822
3.2 Charitable activities						
Recycling scheme	108,038	-	108,038	106,850	-	106,850
Recycling credits	25,655	-	25,655	12,362	-	12,362
Local Nature Reserve SLA	23,008	-	23,008	33,125	-	33,125
	156,701	-	156,701	152,337	-	152,337
3.3 Other trading activities						
Educational, lettings & rentals	1,339	225	1,564	45	-	45
Membership fees	800	-	800	1,502	-	1,502
Educational events	2,944	1,138	4,082	1,240	-	1,240
General sales	44,594	-	44,594	42,388	-	42,388
Shop sales	60	-	60	-	-	-
	49,737	1,363	51,100	45,175	-	45,175
3.4 Investments						
Bank interest	285	-	285	24	-	24
	285	-	285	24	-	24
3.5 Other						
Other sundry income	123	-	123	118	-	118
Open University - Branching out	3,900	-	3,900	-	-	-
JRS furlough grant	-	-	-	389	-	389
	4,023	-	4,023	507	-	507
Total income	231,220	350,952	582,172	299,231	278,634	577,865

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022 £
4.1 Raising funds						
Marketing & publicity costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchases for resale	2,114	-	2,114	415	-	415
	2,114	-	2,114	415	-	415
4.2 Charitable activities						
Salaries	191,019	224,355	415,374	138,086	194,197	332,283
Staff training & other costs	4,873	4,528	9,401	3,171	6,544	9,715
Volunteer training & other costs	668	1,160	1,828	448	2,830	3,278
Rent & rates	810	282	1,092	3,504	340	3,844
Utilities	2,111	846	2,957	1,595	206	1,801
Cleaning, repairs & renewals	5,189	624	5,813	13,590	989	14,579
Health and safety & security	1,532	674	2,206	1,941	1,246	3,187
Telephone, IT & communications	2,143	2,214	4,357	1,002	1,019	2,021
Postage & stationery	1,697	707	2,404	122	26	148
Insurance	13,129	1,941	15,070	9,540	2,042	11,582
Memberships & subscriptions	2,707	1,086	3,793	650	-	650
Legal & professional fees	4,745	10,711	15,456	11,434	38,251	49,685
Resources & equipment	11,973	16,959	28,932	6,032	12,931	18,963
Marketing & Publicity	1,150	315	1,465	819	86	905
Project support	3,450	29,980	33,430	-	-	-
Other project costs	4,021	45,012	49,033	14,451	11,573	26,024
Accountancy fees	12,011	4,819	16,830	800	-	800
Bank charges	150	61	211	30	282	312
Event costs	1,197	332	1,529	-	-	-
Bad debts written off	12	3	15	-	-	-
Depreciation	2,796	1,122	3,918	21,336	7,848	29,184
	267,383	347,731	615,114	228,551	280,410	508,961
Total expenditure	269,497	347,731	617,228	228,966	280,410	509,376

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5 Expenses & fees

No trustees received a remuneration for services rendered during the year, nor were any trustees' out of pocket expenses reimbursed.

5.1 Fees for examination of the accounts

	2023 £	2022 £
Independent Examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	750	800

6 Staff costs and emoluments

	2023 £	2022 £
6.1 Staff costs		
Gross salaries	384,461	308,540
Employers National Insurance	23,659	18,141
Pension contributions	7,254	5,602
	415,374	332,283

6.2 Average number of full time equivalent employees by department

	2023	2022
Fundraising	2.00	1.8
Charitable activities	10.45	8.0
Governance	0.50	0.5
Other	2.00	1.7
Total	14.95	12.0

No employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000 (2022:Nil)

7 Fixed assets

2023	Leasehold Environment £	Office equipment £	General equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
7.1 Cost or valuation					
Balance b/fwd	324,111	-	63,820	-	387,931
Additions	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance c/fwd	324,111	-	64,820	-	388,931
Depreciation					
Balance b/fwd	26,192	-	63,176	-	89,368
Charge for year	3,274	-	644	-	3,918
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance c/fwd	29,466	-	63,820	-	93,286
Net book value					
31 March 2023	294,645	-	1,000	-	295,645

2022	Leasehold Environment £	Office equipment £	General equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
Balance b/fwd	324,111	8,863	63,820	6,823	403,617
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	(8,863)	-	(6,823)	(15,686)
Balance c/fwd	324,111	8,863	63,820	6,823	387,931
Depreciation					
Balance b/fwd	-	8,863	60,184	6,823	75,870
Charge for year	26,192	-	2,992	-	29,184
Disposals	-	(8,863)	-	(6,823)	15,686
Balance c/fwd	26,192	-	63,176	-	89,368
Net book value					
31 March 2022	297,919	8,863	644	6,823	298,563

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £	2022 £
8 Cash at bank and in hand				
Current bank account	29,159	3,221	32,380	49,328
CAF Cash account	84,055	-	84,055	156,422
CAF Gold account	20,095	-	20,095	20,095
Triodos	67,124	-	67,124	67,031
Virgin money giving	103	-	103	103
Go cardless	(117)	-	(117)	(76)
Cashplus business debit card	-	-	-	-
PayPal account	1,017	-	1,017	1,017
Soldo	737	-	737	137
Other cash in hand	619	-	619	570
	202,792	3,221	206,013	294,627

9 Debtors and prepayments

	2023 £	2022 £
Debtors and prepayments		
Trade debtors	36,947	32,945
Other debtors	472	472
Prepayments and accrued income	34,588	12,921
Total	72,007	46,338

10 Creditors and accruals

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	13,274	4,427
Deposits held	202	-
Accruals and deferred income	113,965	159,235
Tax and social security	15,893	10,479
Total	143,334	174,141

11 Movement of funds

11.1 Movement of major funds

2023 Fund name	Balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
Unrestricted funds (General)					
General unrestricted funds	153,950	231,220	269,497	9,041	124,714
Waste minimisation	-	-	-	7,751	7,751
	153,950	231,220	269,497	16,792	132,465
Restricted funds					
Environment Centre	302,299	-	-	(7,654)	294,645
Waste minimisation	7,751	-	-	(7,751)	-
TEWV 2	1,387	-	-	(1,387)	-
Grants Central					
Energy redress	-	21,135	21,195	-	(60)
Kickstarter	-	8,340	8,340	-	-
Building capabilities	-	8,364	8,364	-	-
Grants Waste minimisation					
Precious plastic	-	4,814	1,533	-	3,281
Guildhall & binstore project	-	1,700	1,700	-	-
Grants Green Spaces					
Brelms Trust	-	6,012	6,012	-	-
CYC Fishergate ward	-	1,300	1,300	-	-
Green recovery	-	66,626	66,626	-	-
HR Park	-	59,447	59,447	-	-
York urban becks	-	3,258	3,258	-	-
Heworth Ward	-	90	90	-	-
Yorkshire water	-	15,586	15,586	-	-
Grants Nature & wellbeing					
Green influencers scheme	-	18,563	18,563	-	-
National lottery community fund	-	64,670	64,670	-	-
HAF	-	6,847	6,847	-	-
Nature for all	-	9,950	9,950	-	-
Green social prescribing	-	9,768	9,768	-	-
NRN seed corn	-	8,857	8,857	-	-
Deciding together	-	6,867	6,867	-	-
Multiply	-	4,560	4,560	-	-
Thriving at work	-	24,198	24,198	-	-
	311,437	350,952	347,731	(16,792)	297,866
Total Funds	465,387	582,172	617,228	-	430,331

Transfer of funds

The waste minimisation fund has been recognised this year as a designated fund and not restricted as it is underspend that has been set aside for 'rainy day' spending.

The TEWV surplus has been transferred to unrestricted as there was an error resulting in underallocation in previous years. This fund has now been spent with no further reporting required by the funders.

The depreciation for the environment centre has been transferred to keep this fund in line with the fixed asset value.

2022 Fund name	Balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
Unrestricted funds (General)					
General unrestricted funds	85,461	299,231	228,966	(1,776)	153,950
	85,461	299,231	228,966	(1,776)	153,950
Restricted funds					
Environment Centre	302,299	-	-	-	302,299
Waste minimisation	7,751	-	-	-	7,751
TEWV 2	1,387	-	-	0	1,387
Grants Central					
Persimmon	-	67	67	-	-
Pilot Light	-	1,636	1,636	-	-
Building Capacities	-	2,310	2,310	-	-
Grants Volunteering					
Betty's Trees for life	-	2,073	2,073	-	-
P&D Shepherd	-	4,999	4,999	-	-
Two Ridings Covid	-	10,250	10,250	-	-
Cobb Foundation	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
Grants Recycling					
RSA	-	2,500	2,500	-	-
Grants Projects					
Action towards inclusion	-	4,711	4,711	-	-
Grants Outreach					
HAF	-	1,286	1,286	-	-
Green influencers scheme	-	15,909	15,909	-	-
Energy redress	-	14,128	14,128	-	-
CYC Heworth ward	-	1,210	1,210	-	-
Thriving at work	-	16,192	16,192	-	-
Grants Green Spaces					
HLF Grassland Monitoring	-	3,266	3,266	-	-
Postcode local rivers	-	8,352	8,352	-	-
Brelms Trust	-	1,483	1,483	-	-
CYC Fishergate ward	-	4,950	4,950	-	-
Green recovery	-	42,561	42,561	-	-
Growing green spaces	-	4,900	4,900	-	-
HR Park	-	29,465	29,465	-	-
NRN seed	-	8,000	8,000	-	-
York urban becks	-	2,443	2,443	-	-
Kickstarter	-	5,432	7,208	1,776	-
Yorkshire water	-	10,426	10,426	-	-
Bettys Trees for life	-	1,446	1,446	-	-
Grants Ecotherapy					
CYC Nordic	-	100	100	-	-
National lottery community fund	-	62,372	62,372	-	-
Wates/TEWV	-	4,998	4,998	-	-
Ways to wellbeing	-	4,969	4,969	-	-
JRF York committee	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
THBL Nordic walking	-	200	200	-	-
	311,437	278,634	280,410	1,776	311,437
Total Funds	396,898	577,865	509,376	-	465,387

11.2 Details of Funds Held

Unrestricted Funds (General)

The General fund is unrestricted and available for the general purposes of the Organisation.

Restricted Funds

The restricted funds are only available for the purposes specified for each fund, which are:

Environment Centre

A fund used towards building of the centre to provide environmental educational facilities.

Waste minimisation

Contracts to carry out kerbside recycling service, business waste recycling collections & events recycling

TEWV 2

To provide ecotherapy in a residential and an acute in-patient unit.

Energy redress

Partnership project providing quality advice directly to householders in vulnerable situations underpinned by a 'whole house' approach.

Kickstarter

Government Initiative encouraging people back into work on 6 month contracts

Building capabilities

Supplementary to BLF2 to enable the organisation to build operational capability

Precious plastic

To set up and test our own in house recycling system for plastics which will be used at events and workshops

Guildhall & binstore project

A project to trial different signage and messaging in high occupancy buildings in the centre of York to improve recycling rates and decrease contamination

Brelms Trust

Part fund salary of Natural Habitats Manager

CYC Fishergate ward

To develop habitats at Millennium Fields

Green recovery

National Lottery Heritage fund to kick start the creation and restoration of more, bigger, better and more joined up habitats across three landscape scale corridors and 22 sites across York Local Authority Area, including floodplain meadow, hedgerows, woodland and riparian habitat of the critically endangered tansy beetle

HR Park

Environmental Agency funding to restore natural processes of Osbaldwick Beck through Hull Road Park

York urban becks

City of York Council funds to undertake ecological surveys of Hull Road park and the wider Osbaldwick beck.

Heworth Ward

Green Influencer work at Heworth Holme

Yorkshire water

Restore and enhance habitats along urban reaches of Tang Hall and Osbaldwick Becks

Green influencers scheme

Two Ridings Community Foundation funding which funds our Green Mentor to run organised Green Influencer groups with schools and other youth organisations

National lottery community fund

Funding over 5 years (May 2018-May 2023) to fund the Ecotherapy Programme

HAF

Funding by CYC for food and activity clubs in the main school holidays

Nature for all

Enabled the creation of interactive GPS nature trails through the reserve.

Green social prescribing

Via York CVS, this project aims to embed GSP across the Humber and North Yorkshire region. Provides Ecotherapy (Bushcraft, willow weaving and gardening)

NRN seed corn

Natural England seed corn fund to test out methods to engage more and wider range of people in natural conservation across Fulford Ings corridor

Deciding together

Via Two Riding Community Foundation, this funding provided for a pilot for increasing partnership work around nature connectedness and mental wellbeing across York

Multiply

Via UKSPF this programme provides various different activities to support individuals with their numeracy skills.

Thriving at work

Government funded programme which allows us to deliver mental health awareness and resilience to small/medium enterprises and individuals in work.

12 Net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Balances at 31st March 2023			
Fixed assets	1,000	294,645	295,645
Current assets	274,799	3,221	278,020
Current liabilities	(143,334)	-	(143,334)
	132,465	297,866	430,331

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Balances at 31st March 2022			
Fixed assets	644	297,919	298,563
Current assets	312,418	28,547	340,965
Current liabilities	(159,112)	(15,029)	(174,141)
	153,950	311,437	465,387



Photo credit: Joel Fergusson

Report published in October 2023 by St Nicks

(a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered as Friends of St Nicholas Fields, charity no. 1153739)

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Connect with St Nicks
on our social media.



FRIENDS OF ST NICHOLAS FIELDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1153739

Accounts

Leaves and Goldfinch photos: by Lewis Outing



enjoy nature



get inspired



make a difference

Message from the Chair



For St Nicks, as across society, 2021-22 was a year where pandemic routines became either embedded or discarded. Our understanding of 'normal' evolved and was re-shaped often. Circumstances required us to adapt in line with the expectations of all those affiliated with us and be malleable in our delivery approach. Fundamentally however our strategic priorities – urban green space regeneration, nature-based wellbeing, and sustainable living - remained consistent.

Against this backdrop we are proud to have delivered a record year of strong growth. In fulfilling this latest phase of our aspirations, we broadened our reach and elevated our impact within the communities we serve. Our Green Corridors work has expanded further beyond the confines of the Nature Reserve and we have collected more recycling tonnage than ever before.

The support of our partners and grant providers has enabled many of the positive outcomes documented throughout this report but we know that the funding landscape is now more competitive than ever. We cherish our existing relationships and welcome new collaborative opportunities.

It has nonetheless been a year of transition, as we said a fond farewell to Tom Waring after 16 years with us, the last nine as CEO. Tom's unwavering passion for the charity over this time has been instrumental in establishing much of what we are now tasked with building for the future. On behalf of everyone at St Nicks I'd like to express our thanks for his dedication and vision. During the latter part of the year Sam Taylor stepped up admirably on an interim basis alongside her primary role leading the Recycling Team and similarly is deserving of an expression of our gratitude.

Looking forward, we are delighted to welcome our new CEO, Ellie Stead, who joins us in April 2022. Ellie brings extensive commercial, community and fundraising experience across a diverse career including a more recent interim leadership role at the Yorkshire Air Museum. As Ellie joins us, our accomplishments in recent years have inevitably created some requirement for change whilst we continue to evolve. Our revised management structure will reflect this. We intend to devolve more operational leadership responsibilities across our wider management team to set ourselves up for future success.

More broadly, it is heartening to see environmental issues continue to be thrust into the limelight. Amongst all the fanfare of COP26 and the ballooning relevance of ESG strategies to UK businesses and those who invest in them, grass roots movements are finding an increasingly attentive and receptive public audience too. As part of this transition, it is incumbent on us to embrace and engage our volunteers and supporters in new ways, whilst remaining true to our core values.

To conclude, we have good cause to be excited about our next chapter but for now I'd like to close 2021-22 with a simple thank you – to all who play their part in keeping this green heart of York beating.

Stuart Leslie, Chair of Trustees
March 2022

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CEO's report

I'm delighted to be writing this report as the new CEO of St Nicks, having joined just a few weeks after the year end. I've been blessed to have inherited a strong legacy and even stronger community of staff, volunteers and participants with a vast wealth of knowledge across the different areas of our operation. I have grown to appreciate very rapidly the absolute magic that happens across so much of what St Nicks does every single day and the deep expertise of those who work with and for us. It is truly quite incredible how such a small team can make such a HUGE difference to the lives of so many!

Although some of the most challenging elements of the pandemic are now thankfully behind us, the legacy of impact it has left behind remains significant, particularly for those whose mental health was or is still affected or for those impacted by loneliness and isolation. Combined with cost of living and energy bills, there are still battles our communities are facing on a daily basis, with difficult choices and decisions to make. At St Nicks, whether it is to provide a moment of escape, clarity or connection or to provide a supportive and judgement free space to breathe and just "be", we continue to be a beacon of light in the midst of some dark days.

We have been working hard to ensure we can truly articulate the value of what we bring... while there is a certain element of magic to our spaces and engagement, it's important that we demonstrate and communicate exactly how much of a difference we are making using independent and rigorous methods. All charities across the UK are struggling post-pandemic and we are no exception – with public purse strings tightened and funder's focus becoming laser sharp, we want to ensure we can show just how worthwhile our programmes are and continue providing them to those in need.

The team at St Nicks are easily the most dedicated, committed and energetic I have ever worked with – they live and breathe the ethos of what we stand for and have moved mountains to ensure that communities and our volunteer opportunities could continue, no matter what barriers or challenges had to be overcome. I am proud to lead this team and we continue to foster an approach where we learn from each other constantly and share our stories and lived experience for wider benefit.

We have developed and cemented some incredible partnerships over the course of the year and beyond, working in concert to promote and implement sustainable ways of living and how to make these tangible and achievable to everyone, every day. We are keen to foster further relationships as we go forward, particularly with corporates and organisations that truly committed to their journey of Corporate and Social Responsibility

Why we do what we do: our purpose

If you look at the Charities Commission website or our Constitution, our stated purpose is to:

- Preserve and conserve the area known as St Nicholas Fields for the benefit and education of the public
- Educate the residents of York in principles and benefits of environmental and conservation issues and sustainability including recycling and waste reduction
- Provide facilities for residents with the aim of improving their conditions of life through social welfare and leisure

We do so much more than this at St Nicks, because it's not just the "what" we do, it's the "how" we do it. We are deeply committed to creating, building and supporting communities through nature. Preserving and enhancing the habitats for over 2,000 species to ensure not only our urban nature reserve, less than a mile from the Centre of York, but that ALL green spaces that connect York and **their** associated communities can benefit as well. This is why we get out of bed, every day, come rain, shine, wind, snow and engage with the land and engage with the people – together, both can thrive.

– we are looking for partners who are willing to get their hands dirty (figuratively AND literally speaking!) and walk the talk, not just give lip service in their annual report or website but to engage and make a real difference. Greenwashing isn't for us, so it's very important that our partners align with our purpose and ethics.

As well as continuing to maintain strong ongoing execution of governance in all that we do, a key area of focus for me in my own journey with St Nicks is one of building awareness. Many people do not know we exist! We have already started to make inroads to ensure that more people, especially locally are not just aware of our name, or one of the activities we undertake, but understand and appreciate all that we offer. We have an eclectic and dynamic mix, creating positive impacts across our communities.

I have mentioned our people already, and we invest to ensure that ongoing development is part and parcel of everyone's growth and personal journey with us. I'm proud to have Sam Taylor as part of my team – Stuart has already mentioned her above, but Sam was awarded the status of Churchill Fellow and was due to travel to San Francisco and Canada on a Zero Waste Cities project in 2020. Due to the pandemic this incredible opportunity to engage with practitioners to deepen understanding, foster innovation and share learning didn't happen... until now. I'm delighted that Sam will be able to visit places and people in early 2023 to foster relationships and build knowledge that will support St Nicks remaining on the leading edge of waste minimisation practices.

Significant activities



We deliver our charitable aims in a number of ways:

Nature-based wellbeing

Ecotherapy: Positive contribution and impact to those suffering significant mental health challenges. Improving wellbeing of our participants through programmes which connect them to nature. We have courses that involve poetry and creative writing, willow weaving, Bushcraft, conservation and sustainable gardening skills and many others.

Thriving at Work: This funded scheme aims to help individuals and small to medium sized local businesses to bring nature connectedness into the workspace and equip businesses to better support their employee's mental health needs.

Outreach and education: As well as our Nature Adventurer sessions for children, we offer school trips, Green Mentoring with local schools and Holiday and Food Clubs. Our engagements focus on building children's knowledge of nature, resilience and confidence.

Improving greenspaces

Green Corridors: As well as managing our 24 acre urban nature reserve a mile away from York Centre we work on a number of "Green Corridor" areas across York that connect multiple Greenspaces. These corridors create and are helping to restore bigger, better and more joined up habitats across three landscape scale corridors and 21 sites across York Local Authority Area, including floodplain meadow, hedgerows, woodland and riparian habitat of the critically endangered tansy beetle.

Natural habitats: We now maintain over 2,000 species at our nature reserve which was originally a landfill site until the 1970s. We have an active volunteering programme across all age groups. We provide support to floodplain meadow areas and groups. We work closely with City of York Council and many other organisations such as The Environment Agency in close partnership to ensure we can broaden the impact and results of our activities.

Ecology: We engage with local communities in relation to citizen science projects for our ecological and monitoring activities across multiple sites in York collecting species, habitat and condition data. Building this picture over time allows us to better understand how our habitats are changing and evolving. We have additional new partners and Universities about to commence projects with us in late 2022.



Waste minimisation

Residential & commercial recycling collections:

St Nicks has provided an eco-friendly kerbside recycling scheme for York since 2001. We currently collect recyclable materials from more than 2,500 households and 300 businesses in the city centre. Our unique, low carbon emission service uses an electric vehicle and load bearing tricycles to collect and sort recycling at the kerbside.

This enables us to collect high quality recyclable materials and make the recycling process as efficient as possible. All materials collected are recycled within the UK. The household collection service is funded through a service agreement with City of York Council.

Terracycle drop offs: Thanks to a partnership with Terracycle, we accept extra plastic materials which are not normally recycled in York. As well as a monthly drop off at our Environment Centre, we work with several drop off locations across York.

Sustainable living – We run a dedicated Zero Waste York Facebook group with over 3,800 active members. Through this channel we have voted for and organised group litter picks, set up working groups to address common issues and surveyed residents for projects requiring priority.



Reducing carbon emissions



Energy advice & support: From August 2021, we provide a free energy advice service for York residents who are either on a low income, or aged 65+ or experiencing a long term health condition or disability. This partnership between St Nicks and York Community Energy is funded through the Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme, and supported by Yorkshire Energy Doctor as well as other local partners.

Fuel vouchers; We can issue these on behalf of the City of York Council to qualifying York residents who need help with meeting their energy costs meeting energy costs.

Eco Homes events: Around a third of York's carbon emissions come from the way we heat and power our homes. Making them much more energy efficient brings numerous benefits so we facilitate information sharing and understanding of energy saving home upgrades via our York Open Eco Homes event series.

Strategy to meet our purpose

Our **vision** is to enable thriving and connected biodiverse communities.

Our **mission** is to build and connect flourishing communities through urban greenspace regeneration, nature-based wellbeing and sustainable living.

Our activities are underpinned by our **values**: Collaboration, Integrity, Innovation and Professionalism.

Our **strategy** to meet and deliver to our purpose comprises of three core elements:

- Urban greenspace regeneration: **Nature**
- Improve wellbeing through nature connectedness: **People**
- Empower communities to flourish sustainable: **Planet**

The key drivers for this strategic approach are embedded within and across all our activities:



Nature

Design, lead and deliver innovative projects that regenerate, transform and connect greenspaces and their support groups across the Vale of York and beyond.

People

Provide inclusive specialist nature-based support to improve mental and physical wellbeing, building individual and community resilience.

Planet

Promote carbon neutral and zero waste lifestyles and provide services that encourage and enable communities to develop sustainably and thrive.

Areas of focus for coming year & future aspirations



By Lewis Outing

In the next few years, we will be focusing on taking our proven positive models, impacts and deliverables from our Ecotherapy and Green Corridor work and seeking to secure funding post March 2023 to ensure these key activities can continue to develop. For Ecotherapy we are keen to ensure we can deliver the capacity needed to match the high level of demand still present across existing and potentially future programmes as well as exploring the potential to have these services commissioned for longer term sustainability. We also wish to explore partnerships to allow us to offer further activities to children and young people and dementia sufferers and carers.

In starting to work on a redesign of our website, to make it more user-friendly, easier to navigate and a better reflection of the “persona” of St Nicks, we will also incorporate changes to enhance accessibility for all users and will seek to develop more inclusive approaches in general. We are already developing five different GPS trails throughout the reserve (with some to be delivered remotely) to cater to different levels of physical ability, and to support mindfulness and connectedness to nature for both adults and children.

We are conscious across both our Board and teams to better understand and demonstrate our commitment to Equality, Inclusion and Diversity, across all possible dimensions and definitions.

In the slightly longer term, we will also be seeking partnerships and funding to retrofit and possibly extend our Environment Centre to ensure it both keeps pace with our evolution as a charity, remains aligned with our “Planet” strategic driver and to ensure it can provide the best possible community hub in our area of operation, one which includes some of the most deprived postcodes in York and among the 20% most deprived in England.

St Nicks: key achievements in 2021-22



Ecotherapy

3,706 participant course hours delivered

350 hours face-to-face mentoring

£9.39 of social value delivered for every £1 spent on St Nicks Ecotherapy

97% of external evaluation survey respondents notice and seek out nature more as a result of attending ecotherapy

83% say that attending Ecotherapy makes them feel less lonely.

Feedback from participants was gathered by Converge Evaluation and Research Team (CERT).

569 tonnes of business and residential recycling collected and hand sorted

100% sent for recycling within the UK

0% contamination so no materials are rejected by reprocessors and incinerated

3.5 tonnes extra materials recycled via Terracycle

£13k crowdfunded for the Precious Plastics York project which launched public sessions on plastics reduction and recycling

Minimising waste



Improving greenspaces

58 hectares

of habitat restored and/or improved across 21 sites around York

180 volunteers participating in conservation sessions

5,020 hours of volunteer time dedicated to restoring nature in York

320 volunteer sessions run by staff or park rangers

2,000 species identified and confirmed to date at St Nicks Nature Reserve

90+ live visits made to York Open Eco Homes showcasing low carbon, cosy homes

York Energy Advice

launched with York Community Energy to provide free support on energy issues to residents on a low income, 65+ or with a chronic condition

300 households advised and supported over 7 months

24 homes had simple energy saving measures installed

5,300 kWh - estimated amount of energy saved per year thanks to the installed energy efficiency measures

Reducing carbon emissions



Achievements: Nature and wellbeing



“**St Nicks has given me more than I can probably put into words. It’s encouraged me to meet and engage with others.**”

Ecotherapy: improving wellbeing through nature connectedness

The Ecotherapy programme, funded primarily by the National Lottery Community Fund, continues to be in high demand with a steady stream of referrals and many groups being full and holding a waiting list. Participants in the groups have come to see these sessions and the accompanying mentoring as essential to their mental wellbeing. In addition, the groups are counteracting loneliness, positively impacting physical health and providing routine and resilience.

“St Nicks is safe. It’s a place I can come to on rubbishy days where everything feels bleak and I’m physically unable to settle, and it’s a place I can come to when I’m doing a bit better. However I am, I can engage as much as I want, or am able to, and that’s okay.”

In addition to the group sessions, we offer 1:1 mentoring on a drop in and appointment basis. The total number of quality mentoring hours delivered across the year is 350. This is high and is a reflection of the return to face-to-face meetings and possibly an indicator of how much the mental health of some individuals has worsened during the pandemic.

Thriving at Work

This Department of Work and Pensions-funded scheme aims to positively impact a minimum of 20 individuals with mental ill health and 16 small-to-medium enterprises. The Nature Based Wellbeing Team help bring the ethos of nature connectedness into the workplace. The outcomes are designed to help individuals thrive at work and for workplaces to become safer and better equipped to support their employees’ mental health.

Education and Outreach: improving access and interaction with nature and St Nicks

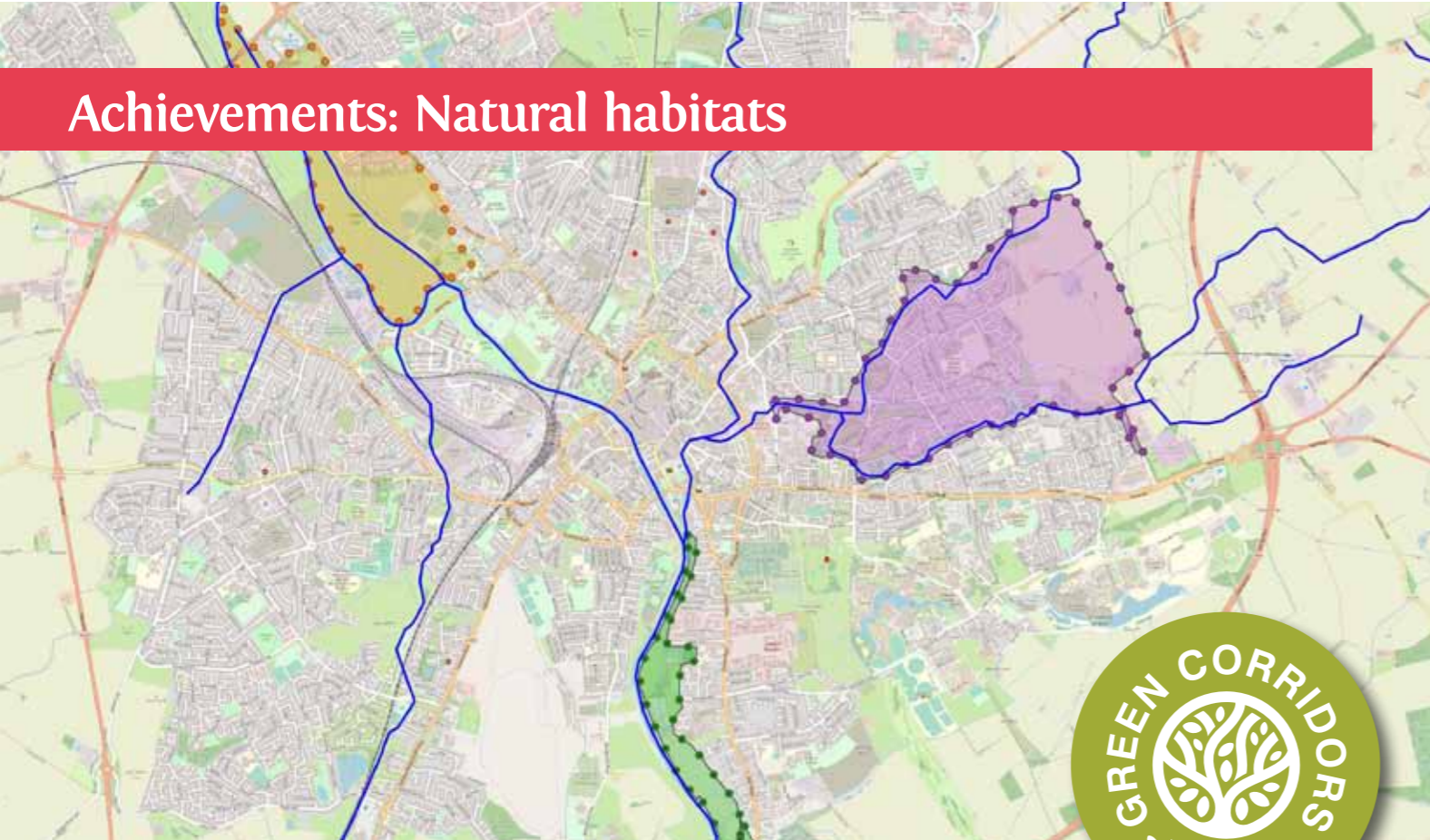
Education and Outreach has sustained a high level of activity both through term time and school holidays. The Green Influencer scheme has been the mainstay of year-round activity. This scheme is funded through the #iwill fund, National Lottery Community Fund and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and is delivered by the Ernest Cook Trust. It has involved our Green Mentor drawing together young people (10-14) in activity focused groups to deliver green and sustainable projects across York. So far our Green Mentor has drawn together 10 groups totalling 172 children, already exceeding our target of reaching 120. The scheme has received extension funding to June 2023. Meanwhile, our holiday and food clubs funded by City of York Council focus on building children's resilience and confidence with nature connectedness.



“I wanted to reach out to you to say a huge thank you for your support, guidance, kindness and nurture to all our pupils (and staff) this year through the Green Mentors project. It has been hugely rewarding for all our pupils who have found a sense of belonging, purpose and sense of achievement... The impact on pupil's mental health has been considerable! This facilitation has developed confidence and trust in some our most vulnerable pupils... Setting up the community garden... has drawn plenty of admirers and has led to a real community spirit with neighbours and friends offering plants and further advice. It was so great to celebrate this at our community summer festival. The whole project has proven to be a springboard to further success and we would love to work with you next year and beyond.”

Ebor Academy

Achievements: Natural habitats



This year has been about growth. Growth in our reach and impact across the city and beyond, growth financially through grant funding and increased contract work, and subsequently growth in our Natural Habitats Team to deliver our vision. We have successfully made the jump from talking about the need for habitat connectivity and landscape scale management, to truly starting to deliver this as part of our Green Corridors York work. This has been a strategy we have been pursuing for the past three years to ensure our work can have a greater and more sustained impact.

To achieve this we are taking the successful model from the nature reserve and across Tang Hall and Osbaldwick Becks, to the Fulford Ings and Clifton Ings green corridors. This approach includes a range of accessible ways for people to get involved and have an impact on their local environment, such as supported practical nature conservation volunteering, a range of citizen science surveying and monitoring and other community engagement activities. It is also key that we work closely with those already working across these corridors, to ensure we can both support and complement existing work, as well as developing new projects to create new and restore existing habitats.

Our dedicated team and close to 100 amazing regular and group volunteers have helped improve and restore 58 ha of habitat for nature conservation, including improving habitat connectivity for tansy beetle along the Ouse. This work has taken place across a wide range of habitats including floodplain meadows, rivers, woodlands, as well as transforming several areas of amenity grassland for nature.

Case study – Hull Road Park river restoration

City of York Council (CYC), the Environment Agency (EA) and St Nicks have been working to take Osbaldwick Beck back to a more natural state from its original artificial construct, to create a more attractive and enjoyable park with better water quality and better habitat for plants and wildlife. The first phase of this work took place in autumn 2020 to partially remove the three weirs, reducing water levels allowing the beck to find a natural meandering course.

Within weeks the water was moving faster, carrying silt away downstream. The lower levels caused some areas of the wider pond section to dry out, creating ideal habitat for birds, invertebrates and plants, and maybe one day water voles too. St Nicks were contracted to deliver the second phase of the restoration works due to our experience delivering habitat improvement and restoration projects in urban areas. During 2021 the following was achieved:

Practical Restoration

- Creating new meanders and river banks
- Improving habitat quality with management, plus planting and seed sowing
- Managing invasive species
- Cleaning out historic fly tipping and rubbish from the water
- Improving connected habitat up and down stream through Green Corridors York

Ecological Monitoring

- Surveying for freshwater invertebrates to understand how the river is recovering
- Surveying for water vole and American mink to monitor spread of species

Community engagement

- Holding regular events to build interest and understanding in the project
- 3 engagement events attended by 59 people
- 3 beck walks attended by 34 people
- 26 volunteer sessions attended by 34 different people from the local community
- Young Rangers group established by St Nicks and TCV attended by 13 local 9-12 year olds



Green corridors (GC) are pockets of land that act as connectors to larger green spaces. The GC project aims to join, connect and improve habitats across the York area. It brings together conservation groups, land owners and communities to generate greater positive impact on wildlife and habitats.

Achievements: Waste minimisation



“ I keep on learning through [Zero Waste York] Facebook group. I am so grateful for this free information! ”

Business and residential recycling

Due to various lockdowns business recycling saw a dip in the total volume of recycling collected in the previous financial year. However 2021-22 well surpassed our highest figures collected to date! Our previous record for business recycling was in 2018-19 when our intrepid team collected 117 tonnes of business waste by hand on our people powered, load bearing tricycles and fully electric vehicles. We are very proud that in 2021-22 we collected 142.5 tonnes of business recycling as well as 426.41 tonnes of residential recycling.

To help us meet increasing demand we were very lucky to work with i-Travel York to get funding to purchase two new electric assist tricycles. Whilst their capacity is the same as our previous tricycles, the boost means the team can get to and from the collection areas faster improving efficiency and number of loads we can complete every day. Our people powered trikes are still in use, with one donated to the Green Spaces team to help move tools and equipment to different Green Corridor sites when they are needed.

This year's higher than ever volume means each team member sorted over 80 tonnes each of recycling by hand over the course of the year. No wonder we get through so many pairs of gloves!

Precious Plastic York

In December 2019 we launched our Crowdfunder to enable us to match fund a grant from the University of Hull's SparkFund. We raised over £13,000 to purchase machinery to upcycle what would be waste plastics into new products. Due to continued Covid and Brexit related issues the machinery finally started arriving in the winter of 2021 and now the team have been busy getting to grips with it ahead of launching workshops and education events in the coming year.



We received some great accolades from the people of York, via the Big Thanks campaign, recognising those who came together to get through tough times:

“The St Nicks Recycling Team worked non stop during the pandemic, for many people they were the only people you were guaranteed to see and be able to talk to every single week. They kept an eye on my neighbours who were vulnerable and very anxious and clearly care about the people they came into contact with. They were always happy to chat and were still smiling even when people put disgusting things out for collection - even during a world wide health scare! Their service has always been consistent and they are always happy to answer questions and help anyone that needs it.”

“THANKS to St Nicks for carrying out Terracycle drop ins sessions during the pandemic. You helped my mental and physical health as I had to cycle 30 minutes to get to you and collect Terracycle waste before from the office and friends. I felt that this simple activity allowed me to have some control and positive impact in the unusual life during the pandemic. A BIG THANKS to Sam Taylor from St Nicks for running the Zero Waste at York Facebook Group. I learnt so much about specific recycling locations, zero waste refill shops and other tips and tricks. I particularly enjoy your Wanted Wednesday and Free Friday threads allowing me to declutter and to share items with locals, meeting new people and neighbours and sharing with them other ideas about reducing waste. I feel empowered to make a difference, every day, and to reduce my waste too.”

Achievements: Reducing carbon emissions



“ Thank you for organising such an **inspiring event...** I found seeing some of the work done by people **made it feel more possible for me.** ”

York Open Eco Homes

One of the highlights of the year was the return of a live Eco Homes event, which attracted over 90 visits to four local homes. In conjunction with York Community Energy (as part of York Environment Week and the national Great Big Green Week), we also organised or contributed to two other events showcasing eco retrofitting (energy saving home upgrades). We put on a special visiting event for City of York Councillors and officers to help encourage a city-wide discussion on the challenges and opportunities in scaling up eco retrofitting so that it becomes the norm rather than a niche interest. We contributed to architect Phil Bixby's "For the Future – what to know before you buy a new home" (which you can watch on YouTube).

Despite many individual differences there was a recurring theme for all the homes – increased home comfort. Eliminating issues with heat leaks, damp and cold clearly makes for much better homes; it benefits both people and the planet if done well. Given that one third of York's carbon emissions arises from homes, home upgrades such as those shown in Open Eco Homes could help make the difference between York meeting its zero carbon targets or not. They would also massively improve lives through better health and reduced bills.

York Energy Advice

The human cost of energy inefficient homes is fuel poverty – a daily struggle to stay warm and keep the lights on. There are many reasons why increasing numbers of people can't afford to heat and power their homes but the energy performance of a home is often a big factor. Those who can least afford it often live in leaky homes which cost more to heat, both in monetary and carbon terms. This year St Nicks teamed with York Community Energy to form York Energy Advice, thanks to funding from the Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme.

This free service provides support on energy issues to local vulnerable households including those on a low income, older residents or those with long term health issues. Between September 2021 and March 2022, we advised or helped almost 300 such households. We also installed some simple energy saving measures – from LED bulbs to draught-proofing – which are estimated to save over 5,300kWh per year. This will help reduce carbon emissions as well as save money and increase comfort. Working closely with a number of local partners, including City of York Council, Age UK and Older Citizens Advocacy York, we've also been able to help people access financial and other types of support in times of sharply rising cost of living.

For more information or referral, see yorkenergyadvice.org.uk or call 01904 922249.



Ms G got in touch because her council house was cold and only partly insulated, which was impacting on her health. She was worried about turning on the heating due to the energy price rises. During a home visit we issued fuel vouchers, provided advice and referred Ms G to the council for improvements to her home insulation.

"Thank you very much for all the work you are doing, you've been amazing. The little smart metre display is so helpful and I would never have thought of using it if you hadn't come round. It's the kind of thing I would never have sorted out on my own but when someone's helping it's surprising what things you find out. I was shocked at the difference in prices, depending on whether the heating and other things are switched on. I thought it was not going to be a lot more but if I put the heating on plus shower or bath I'm looking at nearer £3 a day. The energy company forecast my usage at £80 a month so now I can budget for it and I'm glad I've got some credit with the fuel voucher. Once again thank you so much."

Financial activities 2021-22

In 2021-22 St Nicks generated income of £577,865 against £350,287 in the previous year. Total expenditure for the year amounted to £509,376 (2020/21: £349,859), an increase of £159,517 compared with the previous year. The net result of the charity for the year is a surplus of £68,489 (2020/21: £428). This profit will be taken into reserves, though we have already earmarked a significant proportion of this to support a series of activities and continuation of support in the year 2022-23.

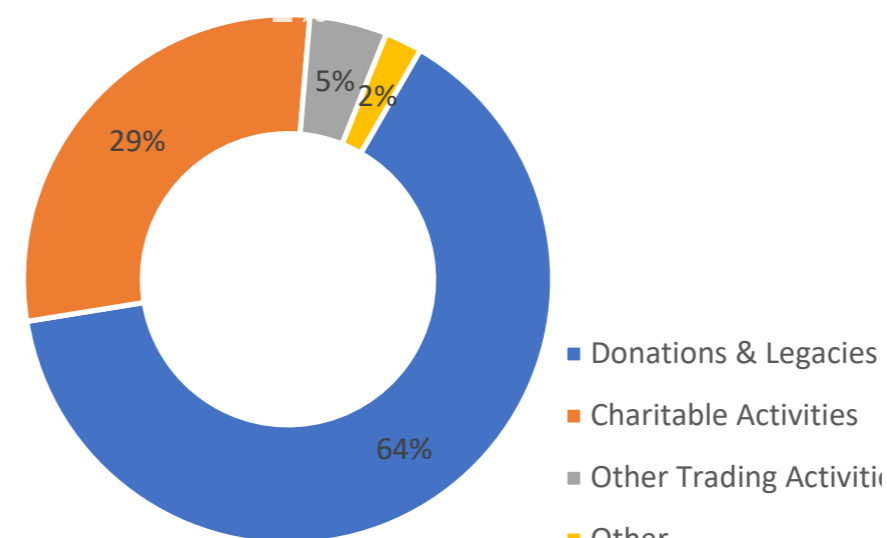
The team at St Nicks have worked incredibly hard in the last year following the challenges of the pandemic to further expand our reach across York via our Green Corridors initiative and in the provision of Habitat Services. Similarly, our Waste Minimisation activities have continued to grow, receiving great feedback for our support during periods of lockdown. Our Ecotherapy teams have continued to meet high demand levels as well as evolving our approach and activities during the fourth successful year of the programme.

We know that the coming year will be challenging as two significant programmes of funding are coming to a close – we are hopeful that our proven methodologies and strong, externally assessed results and testimonials enable us to provide a compelling narrative to future funding partners. We are extremely grateful to our staff, volunteers, supporters and funding partners for our results in this financial year.

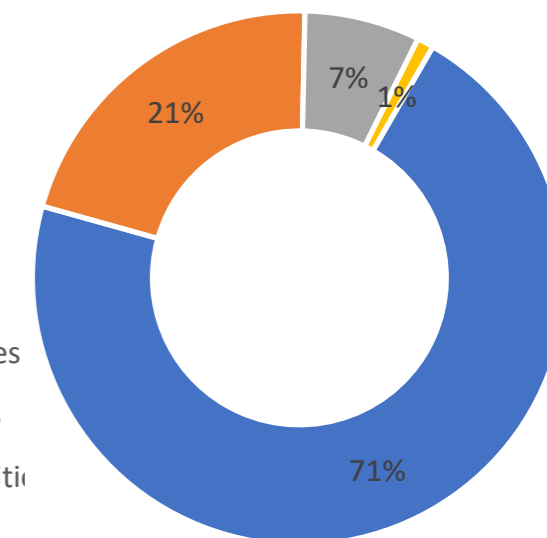
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended: 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3.1	134,313	278,634	412,947	224,603
Charitable activities	3.2	119,212	-	119,212	101,131
Other trading activities	3.3	45,175	-	45,175	16,611
Investments	3.4	24	-	24	30
Other	3.5	507	-	507	7,912
Total income	3	299,231	278,634	577,865	350,287
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4.1	415	-	415	-
Charitable activities	4.2	228,551	280,410	508,961	349,859
Total expenditure	4	228,966	280,410	509,376	349,859
Net income/(expenditure)		70,265	(1,776)	68,489	428
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		70,265	(1,776)	68,489	428
Total funds brought forward		85,461	311,437	396,898	396,470
Total funds carried forward		155,726	309,661	465,387	396,898

2020-21



2021-22



Thank you to our key supporters

Better Connect
 Breims Trust
 City of York Council
 Cobb Foundation
 Department of Work and Pensions
 Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme
 Environment Agency
 Ernest Cook Trust
 Fishergate Ward Committee
 Garfield Weston Foundation
 Green Recovery Fund
 Growing Green Spaces (CYC)
 Guildhall Ward Committee
 Heworth Ward Committee
 Joseph Rowntree Foundation
 Kickstarter Programme
 Natural England Seed Corn Fund
 Neighbourly
 Persimmon Homes
 Postcode Local Trust

Tang Hall Big Local
 The National Lottery Community Fund
 The National Lottery Heritage Fund
 The Patricia and Donald Shepherd Charitable Trust
 Two Ridings Community Foundation
 Wates Foundation via TEWW
 York CVS
 Yorkshire Water
 Your Consortium Limited

Organisations donating funds or other support

Illingworths Insurance & Financial Services
 York CVS
 GoodGym

Special thanks go to Lewis Outing who took most of our great pictures.

Who we are



Management team at St Nicks (pictured from left to right): Jonathan Dent, Ellie Stead, Eliza Fergusson, Sam Taylor and Jo Young

Many people come together to make St Nicks work. During this last year we have trained two further Youth Park Rangers, our six month intensive volunteering programme available to all ages, which in recent years has provided a foundational basis for careers in habitat management and conservation. We have also successfully completed two Kickstarter programme appointments, one of which has moved onto a role at Natural England and another who is still with us!

We receive repeated and multiple comments about how inclusive our approach is at St Nicks, and how welcome people feel who spend time here. We remain mindful that our efforts for equality and inclusion can improve further and we welcome opportunities to ensure our team, Board and volunteers are truly representative of the communities we serve. We are currently seeking a Youth Trustee for our Board, to ensure future strategy and decision making reflects all generations who will enjoy St Nicks in years to come.

“There’s a real community. It’s the first place in a really long time where I realised that people notice if I’m there or not. Not only do they notice, but they care. They’re pleased to see you - and that’s a very strange thing to get used to when not used to it.”

Trustees

Stuart Leslie (Chair)
Sarah Middleton (Vice Chair)
Judith Rigg (Secretary)
Jonathan Exon (Treasurer, from May '21)
Emma Beddington (from Jan '22)
Nick Coad
Lars Kramm
Adrian Lovett
Jane Thurlow
Sebastian O'Connor

Patrons

Kate Pickett
Anneliese Emmans Dean

Chief Officer

Ellie Stead (from April '22)
Tom Waring (until Jan '22)

Other staff

Mark Claridge, Caretaker
Jonathan Dent, Natural Habitats Manager
Rebecca Dunn, Recycling Officer
Eliza Fergusson, Charity Support Manager (from March '22)
Abi Gibbons, Community Engagement Officer (from Nov '21)

Maria Gill, Ecology Officer
Beki Hagger, Green Corridors Officer (from Sep '21)
Rachel Hall, Ecotherapy Assistant (from May '21)
David Hammond, Recycling Officer
Charlotte Hanson, Recycling Officer
Marc Hodgson, Recycling Officer
Ivana Jakubková, Sustainability Officer
Freya Lovett, Green Mentor
Jane Mackay, Thriving at Work Officer (from Jan '22)
Eithne Phillips, Project Officer
Esther Smith, Charity Support Manager (until Dec '21)
Kathy Sturgess, Ecotherapy Project Manager (until Jan '22)
Sam Taylor, Recycling & Waste Minimisation Manager
Eleanor Tookey, Ecotherapy Officer (from Jan '22)
Nicola Ward, Habitats Officer (from Sep '21)
Stuart Watling, Recycling Officer
Jo Young, Nature Based Wellbeing Manager (from March '22)



Anneliese Emmans Dean (1963 - 2022)

This year, we are sad to mourn the passing of one of our wonderful Patrons. Anneliese was a local poet and performer promoting sustainability through creativity and learning through laughter, rhythm and rhyme. In honour of her life and work, we have named our meadow area “The Big Buzz” Meadow. We will also add two brightly coloured benches to our reserve so that a little bit of Anneliese's vibrant personality can always be with us.

Friends of St Nicholas Fields

(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Trustees Annual Report & Financial Statements

for the year ended

31st March 2022



Charity accounts preparation & independent examination
service

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

I report on the accounts of: Friends of St Nicholas Fields
for the year ended: 31st March 2022 which are set out on pages 28-39

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Karen Wood (ACMA) (CGMA)

Outsource Independent Examination Service
The Hiscox Building
Peasholme Green
York YO1 7PR

27/10/2022

Date:

Statement of financial activities

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended: 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3.1	134,313	278,634	412,947	224,603
Charitable activities	3.2	119,212	-	119,212	101,131
Other trading activities	3.3	45,175	-	45,175	16,611
Investments	3.4	24	-	24	30
Other	3.5	507	-	507	7,912
Total income	3	299,231	278,634	577,865	350,287
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4.1	415	-	415	-
Charitable activities	4.2	228,551	280,410	508,961	349,859
Total expenditure	4	228,966	280,410	509,376	349,859
Net income/(expenditure)		70,265	(1,776)	68,489	428
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		70,265	(1,776)	68,489	428
Total funds brought forward		85,461	311,437	396,898	396,470
Total funds carried forward		155,726	309,661	465,387	396,898

Balance sheet

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Balance Sheet as at: 31st March 2022

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	7	298,563	327,747
Total fixed assets		298,563	327,747
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	8	294,627	201,203
Debtors & prepayments	9	46,338	38,111
Stock		-	1,224
Total current assets		340,965	240,538
Current liabilities: amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors and accruals	10	(174,141)	(171,387)
Net current assets		166,824	69,151
Net Assets		465,387	396,898
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted Funds (General)	11	155,726	85,461
Restricted Funds		309,661	311,437
Total Funds Carried Forward	11	465,387	396,898

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on: 05/12/2022

And signed on their behalf by:



Stuart Leslie, Chair of Trustees

Statement of cash flows

Friends of St Nicholas Fields

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended: 31st March 2022

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	68,489	428
Add: Depreciation for the year	29,184	3,825
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Working capital changes		
(Increase)/decrease in stock	1,224	0
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(8,227)	(1,063)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	2,754	62,764
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	93,424	65,954
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	-	-
Disposal of fixed assets	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	93,424	65,954
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2020	201,203	135,249
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2021	294,627	201,203

Notes to the accounts

Friends of St Nicholas Fields (Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Notes to the accounts for the year ended: 31st March 2022

1 Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

1.2 Change of basis of accounting

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year.

1.3 Change to previous accounts

No changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

2 Accounting policies

Income and endowments

Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- receipt of the resources is probable; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Incoming resources with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure, the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has evidence of entitlement to the resources and receipt is probable.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Investment income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Expenditure

Raising funds

Cost of raising funds comprise those costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable activities

Charitable activities expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £2000. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt, less depreciation.

Depreciation is provided at rates to write off the costs less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Office equipment	25%	straight line basis
Project equipment	25%	straight line basis
Computer equipment	33.33%	straight line basis
Adventure playground equipment	25%	straight line basis

Environment Centre

Depreciation is on a straight line basis in line with the lease length.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor.

Friends of St Nicholas Fields (Charity Registration Number 1153739)

31 March 2022

Notes to the accounts for the year ended:

3 Income and endowments

	2022		2021	
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £
3.1 Donations and legacies				
Donations	21,836	-	574	-
Gift Aid	190	-	160	-
Grants:				
CYC - Local Nature Reserve SLA	33,125	-	23,008	-
Grants - Central				
Centre	51,137	-	-	1,898
Kickstart Tourism	-	-	-	10,000
CYC -Emergency	-	67	-	514
Persimmon	-	-	-	400
Neighbourly	-	-	-	-
Patsy Wood Trust	17,500	-	-	-
Pilotlight	-	1,636	-	-
Building Capabilities	-	2,310	-	-
Grants - Volunteering				
Volunteering	-	-	-	873
Awards for All	-	-	-	-
Jack Brunton Trust	-	-	-	121
Betys Trees for Life	-	2,073	-	1,500
P&D Shepherd	-	4,999	-	-
Two Ridings Covid	-	6,250	-	3,750
Cobb	-	1,000	-	-
Grants - Recycling				
Precious Plastic	8,134	-	-	162
RSA	-	2,500	-	-
Residential	-	-	-	-
Grants - Projects				
Action towards inclusion	-	4,711	-	13,292
Grants - Outreach				
Education	2,290	-	-	-
HAF	-	1,286	-	-
Total				
	21,836	190	21,836	190
	33,125	-	33,125	-
	51,137	-	51,137	-
	-	-	-	1,898
	-	-	10,000	10,000
	-	67	-	514
	-	-	-	400
	17,500	-	-	-
	-	1,636	-	-
	-	2,310	-	-
	-	-	-	873
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	121
	-	2,073	-	1,500
	-	4,999	-	-
	-	6,250	-	3,750
	-	1,000	-	-
	8,134	-	-	162
	-	2,500	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	4,711	-	13,292
	2,290	-	-	-
	-	1,286	-	-
Total	21,836	190	21,836	190
	33,125	-	33,125	-
	51,137	-	51,137	-
	-	-	-	1,898
	-	-	10,000	10,000
	-	67	-	514
	-	-	-	400
	17,500	-	-	-
	-	1,636	-	-
	-	2,310	-	-
	-	-	-	873
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	121
	-	2,073	-	1,500
	-	4,999	-	-
	-	6,250	-	3,750
	-	1,000	-	-
	8,134	-	-	162
	-	2,500	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	4,711	-	13,292
	2,290	-	-	-
	-	1,286	-	-
Total	21,836	190	21,836	190
	33,125	-	33,125	-
	51,137	-	51,137	-
	-	-	-	1,898
	-	-	10,000	10,000
	-	67	-	514
	-	-	-	400
	17,500	-	-	-
	-	1,636	-	-
	-	2,310	-	-
	-	-	-	873
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	121
	-	2,073	-	1,500
	-	4,999	-	-
	-	6,250	-	3,750
	-	1,000	-	-
	8,134	-	-	162
	-	2,500	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	4,711	-	13,292
	2,290	-	-	-
	-	1,286	-	-
Total	21,836	190	21,836	190
	33,125	-	33,125	-
	51,137	-	51,137	-
	-	-	-	1,898
	-	-	10,000	10,000
	-	67	-	514
	-	-	-	400
	17,500	-	-	-
	-	1,636	-	-
	-	2,310	-	-
	-	-	-	873
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	121
	-	2,073	-	1,500
	-	4,999	-	-
	-	6,250	-	3,750
	-	1,000	-	-
	8,134	-	-	162
	-	2,500	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	4,711	-	13,292
	2,290	-	-	-
	-	1,286	-	-

Postcode - Local Rivers	-	8,352	-	8,352	-	305	305
Breilms Trust	-	1,483	-	1,483	-	-	-
CYC- Fishergate Ward	-	4,950	-	4,950	-	-	-
Green recovery	-	42,561	-	42,561	-	-	-
Growing green	-	4,900	-	4,900	-	-	-
HR park	-	29,465	-	29,465	-	-	-
NRN seed	-	8,000	-	8,000	-	-	-
York urban becks	-	2,443	-	2,443	-	4,581	4,581
Kickstarter	-	5,432	-	5,432	-	-	-
Yorkshire Water	-	10,426	-	10,426	-	-	-
Bettys 2 Trees for Life	-	1,446	-	1,446	-	-	-
Grants-Ecotherapy							
CYC Nordic	-	100	-	100	-	400	400
National Lottery Community Fund	-	62,372	-	62,372	-	51,121	51,121
Tesco Covid	-	-	500	-	500	-	500
NLCF Covid	-	-	53,923	-	53,923	-	53,923
TRCF Covid	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-
NLCF Uplift	-	-	-	-	-	29,605	29,605
TEWV	-	4,998	-	4,998	-	-	-
Ways to wellbeing	-	4,969	-	4,969	-	-	-
JRF York committee	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-
THBL Nordic walking	-	200	-	200	-	-	-
Naturesave	-	-	-	-	-	570	570
	134,313	278,634	88,165	412,947	136,438	224,603	

3.2 Charitable activities

Recycling scheme	106,850	-	-	106,850	-	101,131	101,131
Recycling credits	12,362	-	-	12,362	-	-	-
	119,212	-	-	119,212	101,131	101,131	

3.3 Other trading activities

Educational, lettings & rentals	45	-	(173)	45	-	-	(173)
Membership fees	1,502	-	1,655	1,502	-	-	1,655
Educational events	1,240	-	(65)	1,240	-	-	(65)
General sales	42,388	-	15,194	42,388	-	-	15,194
	45,175	-	16,611	45,175	-	-	16,611

4 Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
4.1 Raising funds						
Marketing & publicity costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchases for resale	415	-	415	-	-	-
	415	-	415	-	-	-

4.2 Charitable activities

Salaries	138,086	194,197	332,283	101,580	176,637	278,217
Staff training & other costs	3,171	6,544	9,715	385	1,185	1,570
Volunteer training & other costs	448	2,830	3,278	-	144	144
Rent & rates	3,504	340	3,844	243	330	573
Utilities	1,595	206	1,801	95	1,297	1,392
Cleaning, repairs & renewals	13,590	989	14,579	584	1,684	2,268
Health and safety & security	1,941	1,246	3,187	495	1,751	2,246
Telephone	1,002	1,019	2,021	504	2,964	3,468
Postage & stationery	122	26	148	144	35	179
Insurance	9,540	2,042	11,582	810	8,622	9,432
Memberships & subscriptions	650	-	650	448	1,049	1,497
Professional fees	11,434	38,251	49,685	7,976	24,530	32,506
Resources & equipment	6,032	12,931	18,963	992	5,665	6,657
Marketing & Publicity	819	86	905	3	62	59
Other project costs	14,451	11,573	26,024	198	3,407	3,605
Independent examiner's fee	800	-	800	720	-	720
Bank charges	30	282	312	44	370	414
Other sundry costs	-	-	-	5	103	108
Bad debts provision	-	-	-	183	796	979
Depreciation	21,336	7,848	29,184	1,250	2,575	3,825
	228,551	280,410	508,961	116,653	233,206	349,859
Total expenditure	228,966	280,410	509,376	116,653	233,206	349,859

5 Expenses & fees

No trustees received a remuneration for services rendered during the year, nor were any trustees' out of pocket expenses reimbursed.

5.1 Fees for examination of the accounts

	2022 £	2021 £
Independent Examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	<u>800</u>	<u>720</u>

6 Staff costs and emoluments

6.1 Staff costs

	2022 £	2021 £
Gross salaries	308,540	254,661
Employers National Insurance	18,141	18,732
Pension contributions	5,602	4,824
	<u>332,283</u>	<u>278,217</u>

6.2 Average number of full time equivalent employees by department

	2022	2021
Fundraising	1.8	1.8
Charitable activities	8.0	7.0
Governance	0.5	0.5
Other	1.7	1.4
Total	<u>12.0</u>	<u>10.7</u>

No employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000 (2021:Nil)

7 Fixed assets

2022	Leasehold Environment £	Office equipment £	General equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
7.1 Cost or valuation					
Balance b/fwd	324,111	8,863	63,820	6,823	403,617
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	(8,863)	-	(6,823)	-
Balance c/fwd	<u>324,111</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,820</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>403,617</u>
Depreciation					
Balance b/fwd	-	8,863	60,184	6,823	75,870
Charge for year	26,192	-	2,992	-	29,184
Disposals	-	(8,863)	-	(6,823)	-
Balance c/fwd	<u>26,192</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,176</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>105,054</u>
Net book value					
31 March 2022	<u>297,919</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>644</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>298,563</u>

2021

	Leasehold Environment £	Office equipment £	General equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
Balance b/fwd	324,111	8,863	63,820	6,823	403,617
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance c/fwd	<u>324,111</u>	<u>8,863</u>	<u>63,820</u>	<u>6,823</u>	<u>403,617</u>
Depreciation					
Balance b/fwd	-	8,863	56,359	6,823	72,045
Charge for year	-	-	3,825	-	3,825
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance c/fwd	<u>-</u>	<u>8,863</u>	<u>60,184</u>	<u>6,823</u>	<u>75,870</u>
Net book value					
31 March 2021	<u>324,111</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,636</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>327,747</u>

8 Cash at bank and in hand

	2022 £	2021 £
Current bank account	49,328	76,790
CAF Cash account	156,422	55,869
CAF Gold account	20,095	20,094
Triodos	67,031	47,009
Virgin money giving	103	-
Go cardless	(76)	-
Cashplus business debit card	-	631
PayPal account	1,017	637
Soldo	137	-
Other cash in hand	570	173
	<u>294,627</u>	<u>201,203</u>

9 Debtors and prepayments

	2022 £	2021 £
Debtors and prepayments		
Trade debtors	32,945	21,786
Other debtors	472	962
Recycling credits	-	5,975
Prepayments and accrued income	12,921	9,388
Total	<u>46,338</u>	<u>38,111</u>

10 Creditors and accruals

	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	4,427	4,182
Accruals and deferred income	159,235	165,738

11 Movement of funds

11.1 Movement of major funds

2022 Fund name	Balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
Unrestricted funds (General)					
General unrestricted funds	85,461	299,231	228,966	(1,776)	153,950
	85,461	299,231	228,966	(1,776)	153,950
Restricted funds					
Environment Centre	302,299	-	-	-	302,299
Waste minimisation	7,751	-	-	-	7,751
TEWV 2	1,387	-	-	-	1,387
Grants Central					
Persimmon	-	67	67	-	-
Pilot light	-	1,636	1,636	-	-
Building capabilities	-	2,310	2,310	-	-
Grants Volunteering					
Bettys Trees for life	-	2,073	2,073	-	-
P&D Shepherd	-	4,999	4,999	-	-
Two Ridings Covid	-	10,250	10,250	-	-
Cobb Foundation	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
Grants Recycling					
RSA	-	2,500	2,500	-	-
Grants Projects					
Action towards inclusion	-	4,711	4,711	-	-
Grants Outreach					
HAF	-	1,286	1,286	-	-
Green influencers scheme	-	15,909	15,909	-	-
Energy redress	-	14,128	14,128	-	-
CYC Heworth ward	-	1,210	1,210	-	-
Thriving at work	-	16,192	16,192	-	-
Grants Green Spaces					
HLF Grassland Monitoring	-	3,266	3,266	-	-
Postcode local rivers	-	8,352	8,352	-	-
Brelms Trust	-	1,483	1,483	-	-
CYC Fishergate ward	-	4,950	4,950	-	-
Green recovery	-	42,561	42,561	-	-
Growing green spaces	-	4,900	4,900	-	-
HR Park	-	29,465	29,465	-	-
NRN seed	-	8,000	8,000	-	-
York urban becks	-	2,443	2,443	-	-
Kickstarter	-	5,432	7,208	1,776	-
Yorkshire water	-	10,426	10,426	-	-
Bettys Trees for life	-	1,446	1,446	-	-
Grants Ecotherapy					
CYC Nordic	-	100	100	-	-
National lottery community fund	-	62,372	62,372	-	-
Wates/TEWV	-	4,998	4,998	-	-
Ways to wellbeing	-	4,969	4,969	-	-
JRF York committee	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
THBL Nordic walking	-	200	200	-	-
	311,437	278,634	280,410	1,776	311,437

2021 Fund name	Balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
Unrestricted funds (General)					
General unrestricted funds	89,396	112,718	116,653	-	85,461
	89,396	112,718	116,653	-	85,461
Restricted funds					
Environment Centre	302,299	-	-	-	302,299
Waste minimisation	6,557	101,131	99,937	-	7,751
Building Fund	(873)	873	-	-	-
Action towards inclusion	(1,829)	13,291	11,462	-	-
Awards For All	-	121	121	-	-
Jack Brunton	-	1,500	1,500	-	-
Nineveh	19	417	436	-	-
TEWV 2	1,387	-	-	-	1,387
Polinarium	84	-	84	-	-
Naturesave Trust (Goupilopolis)	(570)	570	-	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	51,121	51,121	-	-
Cultural Commission	-	1,814	1,814	-	-
CYC Nordic	-	400	400	-	-
Neighbourly	-	400	400	-	-
Precious plastic	-	162	162	-	-
Postcode - Local Rivers	-	305	305	-	-
HLF Grassland Monitoring	-	4,155	4,155	-	-
Earnest Cook/Green influence	-	4,136	4,136	-	-
Persimmon	-	514	514	-	-
York Urban Becks	-	4,581	4,581	-	-
Eco - Crafters	-	125	125	-	-
Kickstart Tourism	-	1,898	1,898	-	-
Two Ridings	-	3,750	3,750	-	-
HLF Covid	-	16,700	16,700	-	-
NLCF Uplift	-	29,605	29,605	-	-
	307,074	237,569	233,206	-	311,437
Total Funds	396,470	350,287	349,859	-	396,898

11.2 Details of Funds Held

Unrestricted Funds (General)

The General fund is unrestricted and available for the general purposes of the Organisation.

Restricted Funds

The restricted funds are only available for the purposes specified for each fund, which are:

Environment Centre

A fund used towards building of the centre to provide environmental educational facilities.

Waste minimisation

Contracts to carry out kerbside recycling service, business waste recycling collections & events recycling

TEWV 2

To provide ecotherapy in a residential and an acute in-patient unit.

Persimmon

To support our education programme development.

Pilot light

Funded by Garfield Western Foundation to review and strategically develop our collective staff capacity and skills

Building capabilities

Supplementary to BLF2 to enable the organisation to build operational capability

Bettys Trees for life

Funded by Two Riding's Foundation to create mini nurseries for growing wildflowers and trees

P&D Shepherd

To provide funding for Volunteer Coordinator post

Two Ridings Covid

To run introductory day and separate half-day sessions engaging people with Bushcraft as a new way to connect with nature. Funding will provide tools and time to keep volunteers supported and connected to the therapeutic benefits of nature and St Nicks community during COVID.

Cobb Foundation

To sustain the recruitment, support and leadership given to volunteers

RSA

Funded by Neighbourly to encourage zero waste behaviours in a variety of organisations

Action towards inclusion

Building Better Opportunities - working with those furthest from employment to build skills and experience in the conservation sector.

HAF

Funding by CYC for food and activity clubs in the main school holidays

Energy redress

Partnership project providing quality advice directly to householders in vulnerable situations underpinned by a 'whole house' approach.

CYC Heworth ward

Green Influencer work at Heworth Holme

Thriving at work

Government funded programme which allows us to deliver mental health awareness and resilience to small/medium enterprises and individuals in work.

HLF Grassland Monitoring

National Lottery Heritage fund to create citizen science Grassland Quality Survey Pack

Postcode local rivers

Grant from Postcode Local Trust to encourage local community engagement along York becks.

Brelms Trust

Part fund salary of Natural Habitats Manager

CYC Fishergate ward

To develop habitats at Millennium Fields

Green recovery

National Lottery Heritage fund to kick start the creation and restoration of more, bigger, better and more joined up habitats across three landscape scale corridors and 22 sites across York Local Authority Area, including floodplain meadow, hedgerows, woodland and riparian habitat of the critically endangered tansy beetle

Growing green spaces

Funded by York CVS to develop community action to enhance habitats at Millennium Fields

Kickstarter

Government Initiative encouraging people back into work on 6 month contracts

Yorkshire water

Restore and enhance habitats along urban reaches of Tang Hall and Osbaldwick Becks

CYC Nordic

To provide Nordic walking sessions as part of our ecotherapy programme.

National lottery community fund

Funding over 5 years (May 2018-May 2023) to fund the Ecotherapy Programme

Wates/TEWV

Wates Foundation partnership project with TEWV - funding to provide weekly 1 hour Ecotherapy sessions for inpatients at Foss Park Hospital

Ways to wellbeing

CYC funding to facilitate network of providers across the mental health and wellbeing sector in York.

THBL Nordic walking

Funding from Tang Hall Big Local to provide Nordic walking sessions as part of our ecotherapy programme

Green influencers scheme

Two Ridings Community Foundation funding which funds our Green Mentor to run organised Green Influencer groups with schools and other youth organisations

JRF York committee

To provide green wordworking activities to reduce isolation

12 Net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022
Balances at 31st March 2022	£	£	£
Fixed assets	644	297,919	298,563
Current assets	314,194	26,771	340,965
Current liabilities	(159,112)	(15,029)	(174,141)
	155,726	309,661	465,387
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020
Balances at 31st March 2020	£	£	£
Fixed assets	25,448	302,299	327,747
Current assets	231,400	9,138	240,538
Current liabilities	(171,387)	-	(171,387)
	85,461	311,437	396,898



By Lewis Outing



Report published in October 2022 by St Nicks

(a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered as Friends of St Nicholas Fields, charity no. 1153739)

01904 411821 | info@stnicks.org.uk | www.stnicks.org.uk

St Nicks Environment Centre, Rawdon Avenue, York YO10 3FW

Connect with St Nicks
on our social media.



FRIENDS OF ST NICHOLAS FIELDS

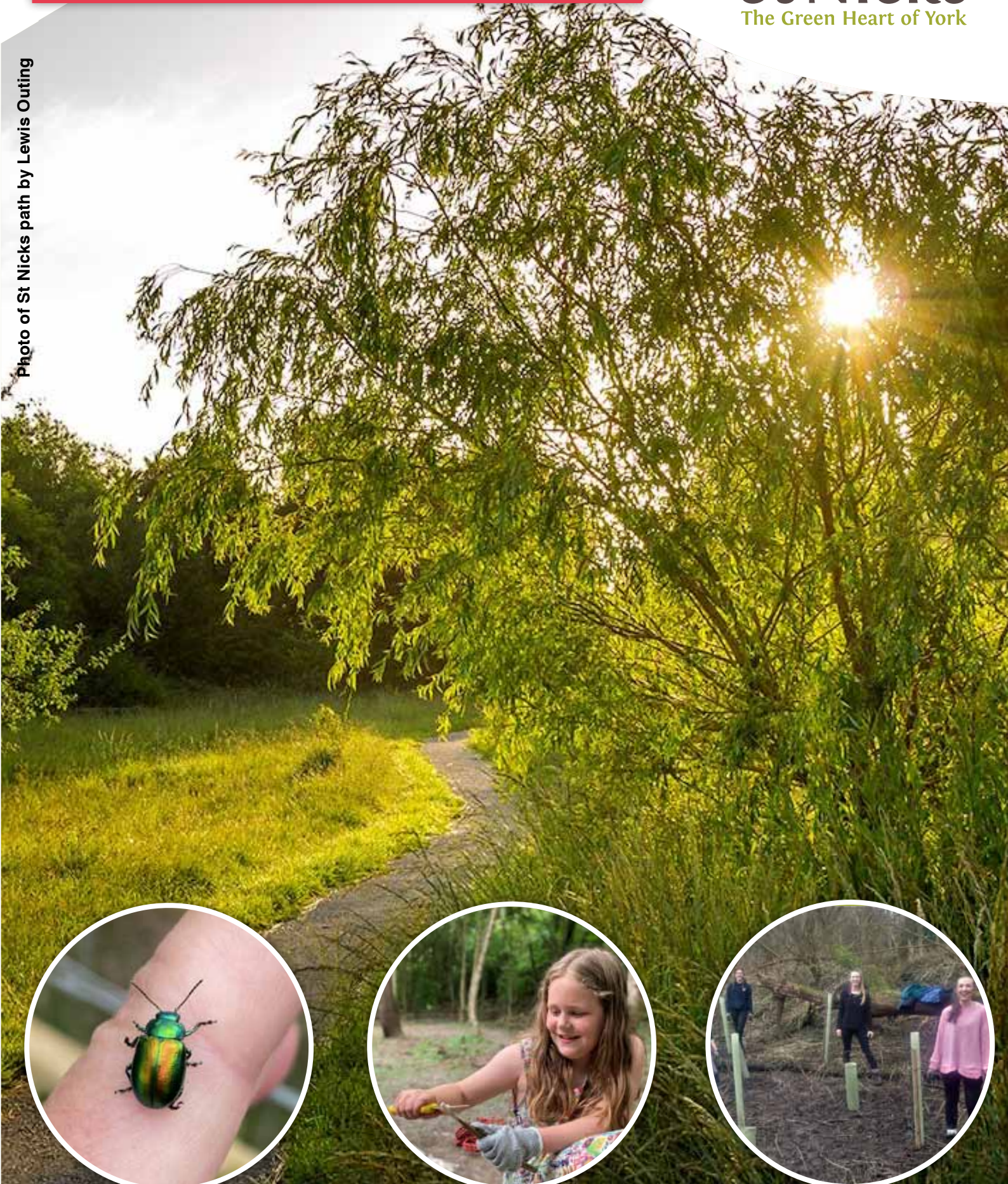
England & Wales - Charity number 1153739

Accounts

Annual report 2020-21



Photo of St Nicks path by Lewis Outing



enjoy nature



get inspired



make a difference

Message from the Chair



In sharing with you our reflections of 2020-21 in this Annual Report, we cannot fail to acknowledge the local impact a global health crisis has had on our activities, as well as across our community in and around York. Like many organisations, at St Nicks we have had to reimagine how we deliver our services and interact effectively with our supporters, volunteers and each other in new ways.

The Environment Centre was closed to the public throughout the year, as a number of our on-site activities and events moved outdoors or online and the majority of staff became home-based. This adversity and change also brought with it new opportunities to extend our reach and impact. We have welcomed new visitors to the reserve as local residents explored their surrounding green spaces on daily lockdown walks, and transitioned from an organisation centred around a single-site Environment Centre and Nature Reserve to one that has become increasingly agile and defined by its purpose rather than purely its physical place.

As part of this transition we have also grown our online presence and developed new partnerships. Our Recycling Team have continued performing their duties throughout the year and lockdowns, with our distinctive electric vehicles and pedal-powered load-bearing tricycles serving residents and businesses across the city. We have also seen further growth in Ecotherapy, with our support extending to a wider audience due to new activities such as bushcraft.

Our supporters, partners, volunteers and funders truly are our oxygen at St Nicks and we cannot underestimate the importance each and every one of you play in facilitating our mutual ambitions and sustaining our successes. You deserve our utmost thanks and appreciation and your efforts are a big part of why we are able to showcase our work in this report and continue to flourish.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our hardworking and passionate staff, who adapted quickly at the outset of the pandemic and have remained resilient in circumstances that have often required reactive and decisive decision-making in response to evolving guidance.

Finally, yes, 2020-21 has presented many challenges, but on a macro level we have also seen environmental issues thrust into the limelight and move closer towards the forefront of public consciousness as behavioural change becomes an increasing imperative. There remains a long way to go but looking ahead I see many reasons to be positive about St Nicks' role in this journey, as we build out our vision to create and develop thriving and connected biodiverse communities.

Stuart Leslie
Chair of Trustees
March 2021

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The vision of St Nicks is for York to be a city where people value wildlife, the environment and each other equally to sustain a rich and healthy life for all.

Earthrise, by NASA

Objectives & activities



Zero carbon



Zero waste



Land use and wildlife



Health and happiness

Due to humanity's overreliance on fossil fuels, the way we move about, what we eat, how we heat our homes and what we buy inadvertently affect our air, water and food quality, as well as access to quality green spaces. The health and wellbeing of people in York, and around the planet, very much depend on the health of the natural world. As the rates of climate change and environmental degradation continue to rise, so does the need for both collective and individual action to mitigate this climate emergency.

St Nicks aims to help counteract environmentally damaging activities and to promote positive sustainable lifestyles in York and surrounding areas, bridging the gap between environmental awareness and action. We work to create lasting positive change in actions and attitudes of individuals, as well as organisations, to enable them to move towards a sustainable future. We achieve this through:

- Improving St Nicks Local Nature Reserve, enriching its wildlife value and enhancing its educational and recreational value for all visitors.
- Developing the Environment Centre as a source of information, advice and inspiration for green living.
- Developing projects and services which help achieve sustainable communities.

Not "just an old landfill site", our main activities include the conservation and development of habitats on St Nicks' 24-acre nature reserve and off-site green spaces, a zero emissions kerbside recycling collection service and waste minimisation advice, Ecotherapy connecting people with nature, environmental education and development of the Environment Centre as a source of inspiration for sustainable living. We support our membership network in addition to a wide range of local businesses, community organisations and members of the public.

Strategic impacts

To achieve our vision, St Nicks has chosen to focus on four strategic impacts to have both on site and in York. These impacts are linked to the One Planet Living principles, developed by [Bioregional](#), where we have most experience. Further improvements in all these areas can help us all meet current needs, without compromising the ability to do so in the future.

- 1) **Zero Carbon:** Reduce the amount of carbon produced
- 2) **Zero Waste:** Reduce the amount of waste generated
- 3) **Land use & Wildlife:** Increase access to wild spaces and biodiversity
- 4) **Health & Wellbeing:** Increase the number of people leading happy and healthy lives

This report highlights our main achievements towards these strategic impacts during the past financial year.

Organisational values

Sustainability: conducting all activities in a way that is beneficial or at least neutral to the environment

Inclusivity: providing a safe and friendly environment for all staff, volunteers and audiences

Enthusiasm for our vision: fostering it in all our volunteers, staff and trustees

Expertise: retaining and developing the skills of staff, trustees, volunteers and the wider community

Education: enabling people to make informed choices as part of a sustainable lifestyle

Partnerships: working with other organisations and individuals to achieve shared goals, take opportunities and increase capacity

Connecting green spaces

In spring 2020 we were really worried whether much, or any, of the regular natural habitats management and survey work would get done. What actually happened, thanks to some emergency funding and the dedication of our team, was that we were able to manage across a much larger area including multiple sites, and complete more ecological surveys, than in previous years. This is a fantastic achievement and we really can't thank our wonderful staff and volunteers enough.

Despite the Covid restrictions throughout last year, our staff and volunteers have managed to continue collecting ecological monitoring data on St Nicks Local Nature Reserve through the dedication of our Wildwatch Group. The group were incredibly resourceful during such a difficult year which meant some members never made it to St Nicks at all. They kept it touch online and those who had to stay at home were still contributing by helping with species identification. We also gained a few new members keen to spend their outdoor time doing something useful. The combination of improved identification skills and improved habitat has seen our species list rise to 1,654 – an increase of 643 on last year!

Working in small groups off-site we have managed 27 ha of habitat for nature conservation. This included managing 6 km of river bank for invasive Himalayan balsam. All the hard work put into managing this invasive species is showing a visible decrease in Himalayan balsam along the managed stretches of river bank. For a longer term staff and volunteers this was a real boost during the last year to be able to see all their hard work paying off.

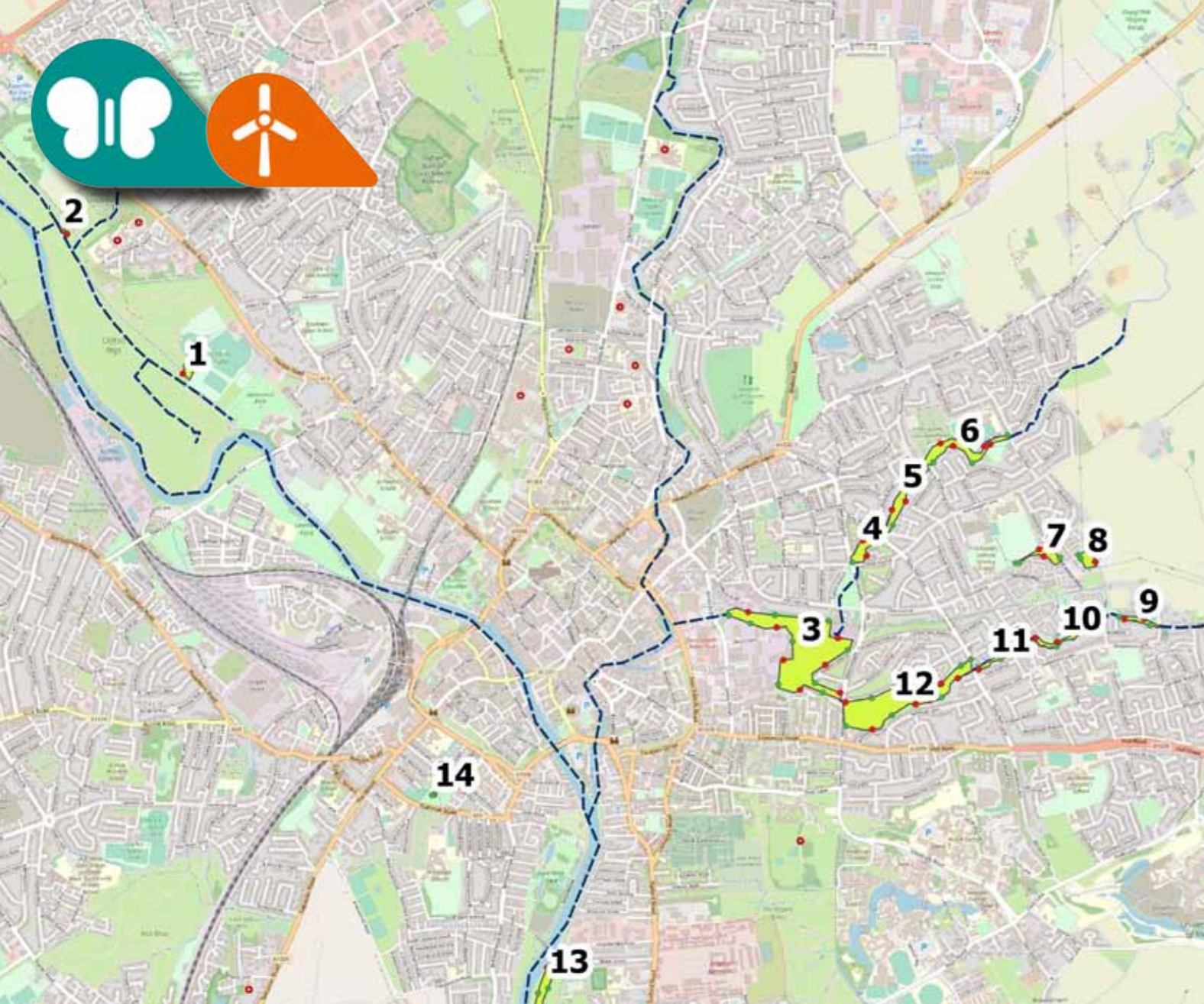
One of our biggest green space achievements over the past year was to finally launch the Grassland Quality Survey pack in collaboration with Ptyxis Ecology, Stockholm Environment Institute and the Field Studies Council. Our natural habitats team have been working hard and after nearly four years in the making and we are delighted with the resource we have created. This volunteer and non-ecologist friendly survey method assesses grassland quality, and importantly monitors change through repeating it yearly. It can be used successfully on very small sites like Scarcroft Community Orchard, or bigger grasslands like Clifton Backies.

The survey assesses the value of grassland for wildlife by recording the positive and negative features of:

1. Habitat structure - A grassland with a more diverse structure provides a greater range of places for different species to live.
2. Botanical quality - A variety of plants provides food for a range of animal species.

We've already had some amazing feedback since launching in York this summer. Plus we've already had requests for individuals and groups to use the survey in Leeds and London.

A huge thank you to everyone who has been involved in developing the survey.



Green corridors work

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Rawcliffe Meadows Tansy Pond – pond management including for tansy beetle | 9 Osbaldwick Village Osbaldwick Beck – Water vole monitoring |
| 2 Rawcliffe Meadows Tansy Meadow – Grassland management including for tansy beetle | 9 – 12 Osbaldwick Beck – Himalayan balsam management |
| 3 St Nicks LNR – Habitat management including woodland, grasslands and becks | 12 Hull Road Park Osbaldwick Beck – Beck restoration development work |
| 3 – 6 Tang Hall Beck – Himalayan balsam management | 13 Millennium Fields – Grassland management and woodland improvements |
| 4 Wolf Avenue Woodland – Woodland improvement | 14 Scarcroft Community Orchard – Grassland and orchard management |
| 5 Heworth Holme – Wet grassland restoration | |
| 7 Derwenthorpe Meadow – Grassland restoration | |
| 8 Derwenthorpe Ridge and Furrow Grassland – Advice on wet grassland restoration | |

Grassland Quality Survey Survey guide and results forms



Introduction

At first glance grassy places in towns and cities may all look the same. But look closer and you can find plenty of variation. Are all grasslands equally valuable for wildlife?

We have put together the Grassland Quality Survey to help you assess the quality of grassland in your local area. You do not need any prior experience of identifying plants.

The survey is focused on recording positive and negative features of:

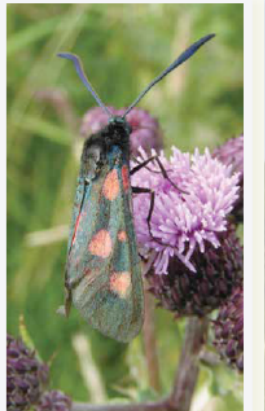
- **Habitat structure.** A grassland with a more diverse structure provides a greater range of places for different species to live.
- **Botanical quality.** A variety of plants provides food for a range of animal species.

The survey should be completed at the same time each year (June or July) to reduce bias and variation in the results.

For more detailed information visit our website at: stnicks.org.uk/get-inspired/our-projects/grassland-quality-survey.

Equipment to take with you

- Aerial image of site
- Pencil and clipboard
- 9/10 bamboo canes
- Camera or phone



How to use this booklet

Pages 1-2 show how to prepare for your Grassland Quality Survey. Pages 3-4 have space for writing down the results for each quadrat. If you photocopy these pages onto a double-sided A4 sheet, you will be able to fit all your results on to one sheet.

Use page 5 to understand what your results mean. Page 6 is the **Basic Botany** section. This is background reading, especially if you have not identified plants before. It introduces some key terms (in **bold**) for parts of plants, that are used later for identifying the species.

Page 7 contains a key to plant families. This key leads onto pages 8-15, a fully illustrated colour identification guide to all 40 grassland plants used in this survey as positive and negative indicators of grassland quality.



“Ecotherapy at St Nicks helped me get through one year at home shielding. It has been a literal life line for me.”

The following was written by a member of the CERT (Converge Evaluation & Research Team), whose members all have lived experience of mental ill health, who conducted an external evaluation for the St Nicks Ecotherapy Programme in May 2021:

"I didn't have any previous expertise in the natural world, even though I do love the outdoors. I felt like I learned a lot in the two weeks I spent at St Nicks. The passion for the outdoors of the tutors was contagious, and I enjoyed that most sessions begin with a walk around the reserve either looking to find things or just to appreciate it. I love the contrast between the distant sounds of the city and the sound of birdsong on the reserve. In terms of my emotional reaction to St Nicks Ecotherapy, to me, although all of the groups had its own vibe, all of them felt extremely socially safe. They were places where all participants are appreciated and nurtured. Sessions felt calm, gentle and safe, and allowed people to choose what they wanted to do without any pressure being put upon them to do anything.

It was clear that attendees experience St Nicks as highly beneficial to their wellbeing, and talking with us, many contrasted their experience of St Nicks Ecotherapy with their experience of mental health services. I was struck that more than one participant credited St Nicks Ecotherapy with saving their life – for them, St Nicks Ecotherapy is simply a life saver. That people are allowed to attend various sessions without a time limit is compared to other providers that have a set time frame (e.g. 12 sessions). By not doing this St Nicks Ecotherapy allows its participants time to adjust on their terms, rather than an arbitrary number of sessions. I feel this is a particularly crucial way of working. What goes on at St Nicks is unique in York, and offers a route through which vulnerable people can begin to improve their wellbeing."

Ecotherapy: wellbeing through nature

Reflecting on 2020/21, we recognise that never before have we experienced such rapid change to our lives, or had to respond so quickly to the new and emerging needs of our participants and local communities. In total Ecotherapy supported 109 participants in the last year. This included 44 new enrolments (people actively engaging with online content, and/or received telephone mentoring for a minimum of three months) and 65 'rollover' participants who had been actively engaging during the first lockdown in March 2020. By running groups online we were able to nearly double our capacity during lockdown.

Due to various Covid restrictions, we were only able to run 11 weeks of face-to-face sessions. During this time, we continued online support for those unable to attend St Nicks in person due to shielding or poor mental health, and for newly enrolled participants who did not yet have an onsite group place. Over the year the whole Ecotherapy team, staff and session tutors, delivered 1,410 mentoring sessions.

To assess the impact of Covid and subsequent programme alterations, we gathered feedback from participants (66% response rate). These are the results:

- 89% reported an increase in mental wellbeing as a result of the support they received from Ecotherapy
- 88% experienced an increased sense of connection with other people due to attending Ecotherapy, helping to reduce their feelings of isolation and loneliness
- 74% stated they felt their physical health had improved as a result of attending Ecotherapy
- 87% stated they got out into nature (outside of Ecotherapy sessions) as a result of the support they received from attending Ecotherapy at St Nicks. This was especially important during the various lockdowns of 2020/21.
- 81% said they increased their feelings of personal development and growth as a result of being involved with Ecotherapy.
- 86% of participants said they learned or developed a new skill as a result of attending Ecotherapy or receiving online support from us.



For all the challenges we've faced during the pandemic, we should also recognise the achievements and opportunities that have occurred. We have embraced new ways of working, using digital, email, blogs, videos, texts, made wellbeing calls and, in addition, for those unable to access the internet, we posted information to help connect Ecotherapy members to each other, the wider support team and the natural world. This flexible approach forms a solid foundation from which we can rebuild as we look forward into 2021 and beyond. We may still face challenges in the months and years to come, but the team have proven to be resilient, adaptable and creative, alongside sheer passion and determination to provide the best possible support, all of which will continue to drive us forward.



Volunteering: helping each other

We are so grateful for the help of our resilient and dedicated volunteer team - our battalion against overgrown jungle paths, rank grasslands, invasive species, overly dense woodlands and under-recorded species. Despite the lockdowns and restrictions of the year, our amazing volunteers continued to help us manage and maintain St Nicks Local Nature Reserve (LNR), ensuring the community had access to lovely green space during a time it was needed the most; and helping us to monitor the wildlife which didn't get the memo about staying inside and was just as active as ever.

Over the last year we held: 85 LNR conservation sessions, 28 Heworth Holme conservation sessions and recorded and monitored species on the nature reserve every Wednesday. Although volunteering numbers were lower than in previous years due to COVID restrictions, working closely with staff, volunteers kept the nature reserve safe and accessible for all to enjoy. All essential management work was done and we even started new projects. We have appreciated every moment our volunteers donated during this tough year.

Despite facing difficult times, our volunteers stepped up to help us relentlessly. One particular Wildwatch volunteer, Amy, really went above and beyond all expectation. When COVID hit, we halted volunteering sessions, including Wildwatch. However, Amy took on the extra responsibility of doing the species recording herself as part of her exercise quota. This is incredibly important as it allows us to manage the site appropriately, knowing what species can be found where. Amy kept us and the rest of the Wildwatch team up to date in what she found so even those who could not make it along still felt connected to the reserve. Big thanks to Amy and all who helped to collect data throughout the pandemic.



Recycling weights increased by more than 1 tonne per week

Working towards zero waste

St Nicks Recycling Team are proud of providing a low carbon emissions service to households, businesses and events in York city centre. Using electric vehicles and load-bearing tricycles, the service is powered by 100% renewable energy and muscle. As everything is sorted by hand, the team ensures high quality materials are sent to be turned back into new items.

Altogether the total weight of recycling materials diverted from residential properties was 418 tonnes, a massive 132t more than last year! This was somewhat offset by a decrease of 30t in business recycling volumes due to lockdowns and the resultant impacts on businesses, resulting in 80t total. The increase in home schooling, working and deliveries all contributed to an increase of more than a tonne a week collected by hand by the Recycling Team. They've been very busy! We also sent 312,987 items to TerraCycle to be recycled, including pens, toothbrushes and over 167,950 crisp, nut and snack packets.

During the year we also worked on a behaviour study with the University of York looking at reasons people participate in recycling schemes. The study showed with statistical significance that people care what their neighbours do but not what they approve of. So if they think their neighbours are recycling they will too, whereas at a family level they care what their families approve of but not what they actually do.

As a result the team are encouraging residents to identify as a recycler and to encourage neighbours to help each other recycle. We are also focussing our communications on a neighbourhood level; reminding people that their family will assume they are recycling and approve of it, and that their neighbours do also recycle. Recycling is worth the time.





Photo courtesy of Yorkshire Flood Resilience Project

Acting on climate

Nearly 300 people booked on our online events ranging from Ta(l)king Action sessions which inspire climate action, to carbon literacy tasters with local training provider Speak Carbon. These aim to help people from all walks of life to learn about the science of climate change, the need to treat it as an emergency and what they can do to address it in their life.

Due to the pandemic we were not able to run our annual York Open Eco Homes event as usual, when York residents open their doors to visitors and showcase good retrofitting or building for energy efficiency. Inspiring more people to upgrade their homes is an urgent task though given that around one third of York's carbon emissions comes from heating and powering our homes. We decided to move the event online and were pleased to attract around 60 people keen to learn from others' experiences. We had great presentations from five home owners as well as a talk from Yorkshire Flood Resilience Project officers, and discovered new potential hosts for next year. All can be watched on our YouTube channel.

We were hoping to finalise the plans for and start raising the funds needed to make the Centre a great showcase of green building once again in 2020. Unfortunately, it hasn't been possible to progress our low carbon building extension plans due to the uncertainties around the pandemic and funding sources. We have used the time to reflect on our needs which will translate into certain changes such as less office space due to increase in home working and requirement for improved ventilation.



“It's so nice seeing her playing in nature and getting muddy.”

Community engagement

Inspired by the Forest School movement, even before the pandemic we re-focussed our activities for children and families on more hands-on nature connectedness out in the reserve. Over 45 children and families took part in person and – during lockdown – “blended” online nature connection sessions with self-led activities. Many more engaged with our online videos and activity sheets. Popular activities were den-building, scavenger hunts, crafts, bird ID, poetry and games, growing seeds. Lots of families said it was so nice to get out and do something as they hadn't done much at all during lockdown.

During the year we also worked in partnership with Big Futures Foundation to work with vulnerable families. None of the families had been to St Nicks before but they all said they wanted to come back and had fun exploring while they were there, with some families playing on the playground afterwards. It was really great seeing families building dens and so on together. Having a wide range of possible activities meant we could go with the flow of what the children were interested in and not needing many resources inspired families to plan similar activities after the session, such as camping.

Thanks to the Better Care Fund we were able to run a series of fun craft workshops and creative nature explorations during the lockdown winter, both online and later in person - from felted wool bowl making and willow crafting, to poetry and games. One hundred York residents took part in these sessions aimed at increasing social and nature connection, particularly within marginalised or disadvantaged groups and those negatively impacted by the pandemic. We worked with groups such as the York Mosque, LGBT Forum, Wilberforce Trust and Carers Changing Lives to ensure the sessions were as inclusive as possible and tailored to meet the different groups' needs. All feedback was hugely positive.



Financial activities 2020-21

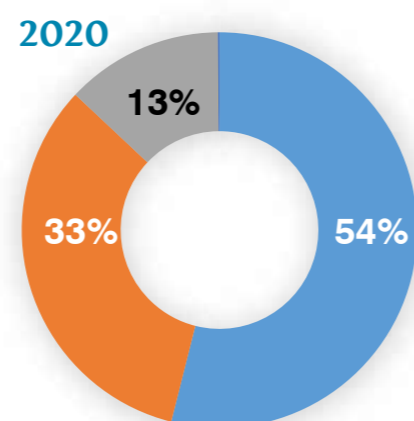
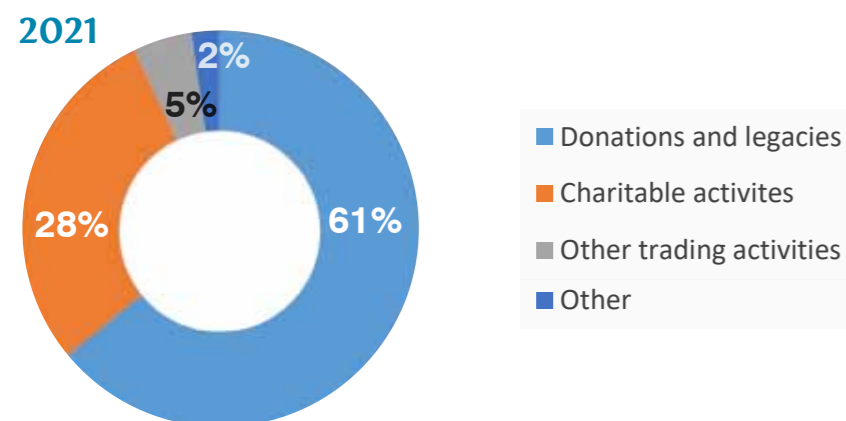
St Nicks changed its legal status to that of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 1st April 2014 with a new registration number of 1153739. The charity existed prior to that, for a period of 17 years, registered with the Charity Commission under no. 1068909. Although not available on the Charity Commission website, prior year Trustee Report and Accounts are available for inspection should interested parties wish to do so by contacting us directly.

In 2020-21 St Nicks generated income of £350,287 against £337,536 in the previous year. Total expenditure for the year amounted to £349,859 (2019/20: £336,865), an increase of £12,751 compared with the previous year. The net result of the charity for the year is small surplus of £428 (2019/20: £671).

We have worked hard over the past year to ensure the charity is in as financially stable position as possible. With thanks to a great team of staff and volunteers, as well as thanks to all of our supporters, that charity has weathered the Coronavirus Pandemic. The charity has maintained income above the 2017/18 level for the fourth year in a row.

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended: 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	88,165	136,438	224,603	182,025
Charitable activities	-	101,131	101,131	111,639
Other trading activities	16,611	-	16,611	43,350
Investments	30	-	30	52
Other	7,912	-	7,912	470
Total income	112,718	237,569	350,287	337,536
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	-	-	-	1,194
Charitable activities	116,653	233,206	349,859	335,671
Total expenditure	116,653	233,206	349,859	336,865
Net income/(expenditure)	(3,935)	4,363	428	671
Gross transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(3,935)	4,363	428	671
Total funds brought forward	89,396	307,074	396,470	395,799
Total funds carried forward	85,461	311,437	396,898	396,470



Who we were during 2020-21

Trustees

Trevor Barlow (Chair until Oct. 2020))
 Adrian Lovett (Vice Chair until Feb. 2021))
 Stuart Leslie (Treasurer & Chair from Feb. 2021))
 Sarah Middleton (Vice Chair from Feb. 2021)
 Judith Rigg (Secretary)
 Lars Kramm
 Jane Thurlow
 Rosamund Portus
 Nick Coad

Patrons

Anneliese Emmans Dean, local poet and performer promoting sustainability through creativity and learning through laughter, rhythm and rhyme
 Kate Pickett, Professor of Epidemiology at the University of York and co-author of *The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Better for Everyone*

Chief Officer

Tom Waring

Other staff

Mark Claridge, Caretaker
 Graeme Dawson, Fundraising & Support Coordinator (until Sept. 2020)
 Jonathan Dent, Natural Habitats Manager
 Maria Gill, Volunteer Coordinator & Green Spaces Assistant
 David Hammond, Recycling Officer
 Charlotte Hanson, Recycling Officer
 Marc Hodgson, Recycling Officer
 Ivana Jakubková, Sustainability Officer
 Hannah Kenter, Ecotherapy Assistant
 Eithne Phillips, Recycling Officer (until Sept. 2020)
 David Shepherd, Finance & Admin Officer (until Sept. 2020)
 Esther Smith, Charity Support Manager
 Kathy Sturgess, Ecotherapy Project Manager
 Sam Taylor, Recycling & Waste Minimisation Manager
 Stuart Watling, Recycling Officer
 Rebecca Dunn, Recycling Officer (from Oct. 2020)
 Freya Lovett, Green Mentor (from Jan. 2021)

Thank yous

In 2020-21 we gratefully received individual donations as well as grants or financial support from the following bodies:

Funders: Better Connect / ESF, Bettys Trees for Life fund, City of York Council, Earnest Cook Trust, Growing Green Spaces (CYC), Jack Brunton Charitable Trust, National Lottery Community Fund, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Neighbourly, Postcode Local Trust, Tesco Covid Emergency Fund, The Tree Council, Two Ridings Community Foundation, York and North Yorkshire Growth Hub

Businesses donating funds or other support: Illingworths Insurance & Financial Services, York CVS, GoodGym

Our work is only made possible thanks to the support we receive from our funders alongside the generosity of our fantastic volunteers, members and supporters. Thank you all!



Barry Potter (1946 - 2020)

It was with a heavy heart that we said a final farewell to Barry in May 2020. Barry's long-term involvement with St Nicks brought knowledge and enthusiasm to nature conservation. From his hard-working early days with YNET helping to secure St Nicholas Fields as a green space, through to supporting the charity in establishing, and in more recent years sampling and testing our self-seeded apple trees to check their varieties – Barry has been a huge help and influence, helping St Nicks over more than three decades.

Friends of St Nicholas Fields

(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Trustees Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ended

31st March 2021



Charity accounts preparation & independent examination
service

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Constitution

How the charity is constituted

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees

Appointed at the AGM or at any other time by members or the Charity trustees. Trustees are selected through external advertisement, application and interview process, as needed; appointments are formalised by members at the AGM.

Reference and administration details

Charity's full name

Friends of St Nicholas Fields

Other names the charity is known by

St Nicks

Charity's principal address

St Nicks Environment Centre
Rawdon Avenue, York YO10 3FW

Names of the trustees who manage the charity

Trustees & their background

Office (if any)

Trevor Barlow
IT Consultant

Chair (until October 2020)

Adrian Lovett
Retired NHS Manager

Vice Chair (until February 2021)

Sarah Middleton
Head of Advocacy and Community
Engagement at DPC

Vice Chair (from February 2021)

Stuart Leslie
Lloyds Bank Relationship Director

Treasurer & Chair (from February 2021)

Judith Rigg
Retired head teacher

Secretary

Lars Kramm
Senior Project Officer

Jane Thurlow
Retired senior manager in the NHS

Rosamund Portus
PhD student

Nick Coad
Environmental consultant

Names of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

None

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

None

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff

Tom Waring

Names and addresses of advisers

Type of adviser	Independent Examiner
Name	Karen Wood ACMA
Address	Outsource Accounting Services & Independent Examinations Hiscox Building, Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PR

Risk management

The Trustees and Chief Officer review and analyse the risks facing the organisation on a regular basis, ensuring that systems are in place to mitigate risks identified. This was last undertaken during March 2021. Charities continue to be under close scrutiny and to ensure our continued transparency we are committed to improving our high standards in line with best practice. To bolster our position, we will continue to deliver our charitable works to the highest standard practicable, seek innovative ways of fundraising, increase publicity, and extend our collaborative working with others, to deliver mutual benefits.

Related parties

St Nicks works closely with a number of organisations including: City of York Council, Environment Agency, Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust and the Dales to Vale Rivers Network, River Foss Society, North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre, Stockholm Environment Institute/OPAL, Sustrans Greener Greenways, Yorkshire Mammal Group, FrogLife, Univesity of York, Converge and the Discovery Hub at York St John University, Blueberry Academy, York CVS, York Community Energy, York Mind and TerraCycle. The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who work so hard to make St Nicks a success - the staff, volunteers and the many supporters and members of local communities who give their time and energy so freely, as well as to the many funding bodies who make it possible.

Financial review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period

St Nicks generated income of £350,287 against £337,536 in the previous year. Total expenditure for the year amounted to £349,859 (2019/20: £336,865). The net result of the charity for the year is small surplus of £428 (2019/20: £671). The Coronavirus Pandemic affected the charity's finances in the early part of the year, however due to the generosity and flexibility of funders and donors we maintained a breakeven position in 2020/21.

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held

It is the policy of the CIO to maintain unrestricted funds, which are free reserves, and ring-fenced departmental reserves. Free reserves are held to enable orderly organisational closure, in such an eventuality, providing sufficient funds to cover management, employee redundancy, and orderly wind down of services to reduce a sudden and adverse impact upon service users, as well as the ability to meet all contractual obligations of the CIO, over a period of 3 to 6 months. The free reserves target is therefore expressed as a range. Unrestricted funds were maintained at or below this level throughout the year. St Nicks' reserves policy continues to apply a risk based approach to its general and ring fenced reserves. This is reviewed, at least annually, and monitored by the Chief Officer and Trustees bi-monthly.

Amount of reserves held

£396,898 of which £311,437 are restricted (£302,299 relates to the Environment Centre building)

Reasons for holding zero reserves

Not applicable

Funds materially in deficit

None

Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern

There are no concerns about the charity continuing as a going concern.

Further financial review details

St Nicks changed its legal status to that of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 1st April 2014 with a new registration number of 1153739. The charity existed prior to that, for a period of 17 years, registered with the Charity Commission under No. 1068909. Although not available on the Charity Commission website, prior year Trustee Report and Accounts are available for inspection should interested parties wish to do so by contacting us directly.

Declaration

The trustees consider that they have complied with their duties to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Stuart Leslie, Chair

Date: 15/12/2021

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

I report on the accounts of: Friends of St Nicholas Fields
for the year ended 31st March 2021 which are set out on pages 21-34

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Karen Wood (ACMA) (CGMA)

Date: 15/12/2021

Outsource independent examination service

The Hiscox Building

York YO1 7PR

Peasholme Green

Statement of financial activities

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended: 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3.1	88,165	136,438	224,603	182,025
Charitable activities	3.2	-	101,131	101,131	111,639
Other trading activities	3.3	16,611	-	16,611	43,350
Investments	3.4	30	-	30	52
Other	3.5	7,912	-	7,912	470
Total income	3	112,718	237,569	350,287	337,536
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4.1	-	-	-	1,194
Charitable activities	4.2	116,653	233,206	349,859	335,671
Total expenditure	4	116,653	233,206	349,859	336,865
Net income/(expenditure)		(3,935)	4,363	428	671
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(3,935)	4,363	428	671
Total funds brought forward		89,396	307,074	396,470	395,799
Total funds carried forward		85,461	311,437	396,898	396,470

Balance sheet

Friends of St Nicholas Fields (Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Balance Sheet as at: 31st March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	7	327,747	331,572
Total fixed assets		327,747	331,572
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	8	201,203	135,249
Debtors & prepayments	9	38,111	37,048
Stock		1,224	1,224
Total current assets		240,538	173,521
Current liabilities: amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors and accruals	10	(171,387)	(108,623)
Net current assets		69,151	64,898
Net Assets		396,898	396,470
Funds of the Charity	11		
Unrestricted Funds (General)		85,461	89,396
Restricted Funds		311,437	307,074
Total Funds Carried Forward	11	396,898	396,470

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on: 13/12/2021

And signed on their behalf by:



Stuart Leslie, Chair

Statement of cash flows

Friends of St Nicholas Fields

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended: 31st March 2021

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	428	671
Add: Depreciation for the year	3,825	3,825
Working capital changes		
(Increase)/decrease in stock	-	459
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(1,063)	(2,957)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	62,764	6,827
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	65,954	8,825
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	-	-
Disposal of fixed assets	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	65,954	8,825
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2020	135,249	126,424
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2021	201,203	135,249

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Notes to the accounts for the year ended:

31st March 2021

1 Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

1.2 Change of basis of accounting

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year.

1.3 Change to previous accounts

No changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

2 Accounting policies

Income and endowments

Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- receipt of the resources is probable; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Incoming resources with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure, the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has evidence of entitlement to the resources and receipt is probable.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Investment income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Expenditure

Raising funds

Cost of raising funds comprise those costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable activities

Charitable activities expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £2000. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt, less depreciation.

Depreciation is provided at rates to write off the costs less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Office equipment	25%	straight line basis
Project equipment	25%	straight line basis
Computer equipment	33.33%	straight line basis
Adventure playground equipment	25%	straight line basis

Environment Centre

The value of the Environment Centre building is stated at cost and no provision is made to write off that cost as the trustees feel there has been no depreciation in value of the asset to date.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor.

Notes to the accounts for the year ended: **31 March 2021**

	2021		2020		Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £						
3 Income and endowments										
3.1 Donations and legacies										
Donations	574	-	-	-	574	-	12,697	48	-	12,745
Gift Aid	160	-	-	-	160	-	1,725	-	-	1,725
Grants:										
CYC - Local Nature Reserve SLA	23,008	-	-	-	23,008	-	23,008	-	-	23,008
Cultural Commission	-	1,814	-	-	1,814	-	-	-	-	-
Brelms Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
Action towards inclusion	-	13,292	-	-	13,292	-	-	10,292	-	10,292
TEWV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,755	-	3,755
CYC Nordic	-	400	-	-	400	-	-	-	-	-
Eco- crafters	-	125	-	-	125	-	-	-	-	-
Patsy Wood Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,500	-	12,500
Green influence	-	4,136	-	-	4,136	-	-	-	-	-
Precious plastic	-	162	-	-	162	-	-	-	-	-
Jack Brunton Trust	-	1,500	-	-	1,500	-	-	-	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	51,121	-	-	51,121	-	-	56,171	-	56,171
Kickstart Tourism	-	1,898	-	-	1,898	-	-	-	-	-
Urban Becks	-	4,581	-	-	4,581	-	-	11,690	-	11,690
Two Ridings	-	3,750	-	-	3,750	-	-	1,242	-	1,242
CYC Emergency	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	-	-	-
Garfield Weston	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,000	-	15,000
CYC - Fishergate Ward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,235	-	2,235
Building Capabilities	-	873	-	-	873	-	-	839	-	839
HLF Covid	-	16,700	-	-	16,700	-	-	-	-	-
Tesco Covid	500	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	-	-
HLF Grassland Monitoring	-	4,154	-	-	4,154	-	-	641	-	641
Ninevah	-	417	-	-	417	-	-	2,500	-	2,500
NLCF Covid	53,923	-	-	-	53,923	-	-	-	-	-

NLCF Uplift	-	29,605	-	-	29,605	-	-	-	-	-
CYC - Heworth Ward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	843	-	843
CYC - Micklegate Ward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	600	-	600
Awards for All	-	121	-	-	121	-	-	9,845	-	9,845
Bettys - Trees for Life	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,260	-	3,260
Neighbourly	-	400	-	-	400	-	-	800	-	800
HLF Monitoring Pack	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,080	-	3,080
Postcode - Local Rivers	-	305	-	-	305	-	-	6,813	-	6,813
Art Gallery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	510	-	510
Tang Hall Big Local	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	350	-	350
Naturesave	-	570	-	-	570	-	-	-	-	-
Persimmon	-	514	-	-	514	-	-	581	-	581
	88,165	136,438			224,603		37,430	144,595		182,025

3.2 Charitable activities

Recycling scheme	-	101,131	101,131	14,012	111,639
	-	101,131	101,131	14,012	111,639

3.3 Other trading activities

Educational, lettings & rentals	(173)	-	(173)	911	911
Membership fees	1,655	-	1,655	1,239	1,239
Educational events	(65)	-	(65)	6,289	5,923
General sales	15,194	-	15,194	31,652	35,277
	16,611	-	16,611	40,091	43,350

3.4 Investments

Bank interest	30	-	30	52	52
	30	-	30	52	52

3.5 Other

Other sundry income	102	-	102	470	470
JRS furlough grant	7,810	-	7,810	-	-
	7,912	-	7,912	470	470

Total income

	112,718	237,569	350,287	92,055	245,481	337,536
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4 Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
4.1 Raising funds						
Marketing & publicity costs	-	-	-	1,194	-	1,194
Purchases for resale	-	-	-	1,194	-	1,194
4.2 Charitable activities						
Salaries	101,580	176,637	278,217	67,045	198,170	265,215
Staff training & other costs	385	1,185	1,570	1,041	1,960	3,001
Volunteer training & other costs	-	144	144	772	797	1,569
Rent & rates	243	330	573	338	2,257	2,595
Utilities	95	1,297	1,392	631	1,100	1,731
Cleaning, repairs & renewals	584	1,684	2,268	519	3,939	4,458
Health and safety & security	495	1,751	2,246	744	1,220	1,964
Telephone	504	2,964	3,468	326	657	983
Postage & stationery	144	35	179	136	451	587
Insurance	810	8,622	9,432	2,612	5,222	7,834
Memberships & subscriptions	448	1,049	1,497	209	498	707
Professional fees	7,976	24,530	32,506	10,186	14,600	24,786
Resources & equipment	992	5,665	6,657	2,269	2,443	4,712
Marketing & Publicity	(3)	62	59	486	325	811
Event costs	-	-	-	1,405	637	2,042
Other project costs	198	3,407	3,605	1,343	4,040	5,383
Independent examiner's fee	720	-	720	720	-	720
Bank charges	44	370	414	209	284	493
Other sundry costs	5	103	108	765	1,404	2,169
Bad debts provision	183	796	979	86	-	86
Depreciation	1,250	2,575	3,825	802	3,023	3,825
	116,653	233,206	349,859	92,644	243,027	335,671
Total expenditure	116,653	233,206	349,859	93,838	243,027	336,865

5 Expenses & fees

No trustees received a remuneration for services rendered during the year, nor were any trustees' out of pocket expenses reimbursed.

5.1 Fees for examination of the accounts

	2021	2020
	£	£
Independent Examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	720	720

6 Staff costs and emoluments

6.1 Staff costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Gross salaries	254,661	247,336
Employers National Insurance	18,732	13,392
Pension contributions	4,824	4,487
	278,217	265,215

6.2 Average number of full time equivalent employees by department

	2021	2020
Fundraising	1.8	1.8
Charitable activities	7.0	7.0
Governance	0.5	0.5
Other	1.4	1.4
Total	10.7	10.7

No employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000 (2020:Nil)

7 Fixed assets

2021	Leasehold Environment £	Office equipment £	General equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
7.1 Cost or valuation					
Balance b/fwd	324,111	8,863	63,820	6,823	403,617
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance c/fwd	324,111	8,863	63,820	6,823	403,617
Depreciation					
Balance b/fwd	-	8,863	56,359	6,823	72,045
Charge for year	-	-	3,825	-	3,825
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance c/fwd	-	8,863	60,184	6,823	75,870
Net book value					
31 March 2021	324,111	-	3,636	-	327,747

2020	Leasehold Environment £	Office equipment £	General equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
Balance b/fwd	324,111	8,863	63,820	6,823	403,617
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	0
Balance c/fwd	324,111	8,863	63,820	6,823	403,617
Depreciation					
Balance b/fwd	-	8,863	52,534	6,823	68,220
Charge for year	-	-	3,825	-	3,825
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance c/fwd	-	8,863	56,359	6,823	72,045
Net book value					
31 March 2020	324,111	-	7,461	-	331,572

	2021 £	2020 £
8 Cash at bank and in hand		
Current bank account	76,790	16,078
CAF Cash account	55,869	68,210
CAF Gold account	20,094	50,073
Triodos	47,009	-
Cashplus business debit card	631	277
PayPal account	637	527
Petty Cash	-	50
Other cash in hand	173	34
Total	201,203	135,249

	2021 £	2020 £
9 Debtors and prepayments		
Debtors and prepayments		
Trade debtors	21,786	24,934
Other debtors	962	774
Recycling credits	5,975	4,039
Prepayments and accrued income	9,388	7,301
Total	38,111	37,048

	2021 £	2020 £
10 Creditors and accruals		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	4,182	2,352
Accruals and deferred income	165,738	95,863
Tax and social security	1,467	10,408
Total	171,387	108,623

11 Movement of funds

11.1 Movement of major funds

2021 Fund name	Balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
Unrestricted funds (General)					
General unrestricted funds	89,396	112,718	116,653	-	85,461
	89,396	112,718	116,653	-	85,461
Restricted funds					
Environment Centre	302,299	-	-	-	302,299
Recycling Scheme	6,557	101,131	99,937	-	7,751
Action towards inclusion	(1,829)	13,291	11,462	-	-
Building Fund	(873)	873	-	-	-
Awards for All	-	121	121	-	-
Jack Brunton	-	1,500	1,500	-	-
Ninevah	19	417	436	-	-
TEVV 2	1,387	-	-	-	1,387
Pollinarium	84	-	84	-	-
Naturesave Trust (Goupilopolis)	(570)	570	-	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	51,121	51,121	-	-
Cultural Commission	-	1,814	1,814	-	-
CYC Nordic	-	400	400	-	-
Neighbourly	-	400	400	-	-
Precious plastic	-	162	162	-	-
Postcode - Local Rivers	-	305	305	-	-
HLF Grassland Monitoring	-	4,155	4,155	-	-
Earnest Cook/Green influence	-	4,136	4,136	-	-
Persimmon	-	514	514	-	-
York Urban Becks	-	4,581	4,581	-	-
Eco - Crafters	-	125	125	-	-
Kickstart Tourism	-	1,898	1,898	-	-
Two Ridings	-	3,750	3,750	-	-
HLF Covid	-	16,700	16,700	-	-
NLCF Uplift	-	29,605	29,605	-	-
	307,074	237,569	233,206	-	311,437
Total Funds	396,470	350,287	349,859	-	396,898

2020 Fund name	Balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
Unrestricted funds (General)					
General unrestricted funds	91,179	92,055	93,838	-	89,396
	91,179	92,055	93,838	-	89,396
Restricted funds					
Environment Centre	302,299	-	-	-	302,299
Recycling Scheme	-	100,810	94,253	-	6,557
York Open Eco Home	961	99	1,060	-	-
Brelms Trust	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
Building Fund	203	24	1,100	-	(873)
Action towards inclusion	-	10,291	12,120	-	(1,829)
Patsy Wood Trust	-	12,500	12,500	-	-
York Urban Becks	-	11,690	11,690	-	-
Grassland Survey	-	641	641	-	-
Building Capabilities	1,073	839	1,912	-	-
Nineveh	-	2,500	2,481	-	19
Big Lottery Fund 2	-	56,171	56,171	-	-
TEWV 2	-	2,803	1,416	-	1,387
Purey Cust Nordic Walking	-	1,242	1,242	-	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	15,000	15,000	-	-
Polinarium	84	-	-	-	84
CYC Heworth Ward	-	844	844	-	-
CYC Micklegate Ward	-	600	600	-	-
CYC Fishergate Ward	-	2,235	2,235	-	-
Art Gallery	-	510	510	-	-
Awards For All	-	9,845	9,845	-	-
Neighbourly	-	800	800	-	-
Betty's - Trees for Life	-	3,261	3,261	-	-
Postcode - Local Rivers	-	6,813	6,813	-	-
HLF Grassland Monitoring	-	3,080	3,080	-	-
TEWV 3	-	952	952	-	-
Persimmon	-	581	581	-	-
Tang Hall Big Local - Nordic Walking	-	350	350	-	-
Naturesave Trust (Goupilopolis)	-	-	570	-	(570)
	304,620	245,481	243,027	-	307,074
Total Funds	395,799	337,536	336,865	-	396,470

11.2 Details of Funds Held

Unrestricted Funds (General)

The General fund is unrestricted and available for the general purposes of the Organisation.

Restricted Funds

The restricted funds are only available for the purposes specified for each fund, which are:

Environment Centre

A fund used towards building of the centre to provide environmental educational facilities.

Recycling Scheme

Contracts to carry out kerbside recycling service, business waste recycling collections & events recycling

Action towards inclusion

Building Better Opportunities - working with those furthest from employment to build skills and experience in the conservation sector.

Building Fund

Specific donations to help with repairs to the Environment Centre Building

Awards for All

To support our Volunteer programme.

Jack Brunton

Support for the volunteering programme

Ninevah

To encourage local community engagement along York becks.

TEWV 2

To provide ecotherapy in a residential and an acute in-patient unit.

Pollinarium

Act as custodian of the pollinarium plant pavillion along with summer programme at York Museums Trust Artist Garden (2018)

Naturesave Trust (Goupilopolis)

Contribution towards additional outside storage for vehicles & tools.

National Lottery Community Fund

Follow on funding for our Ecotherapy project working with those recovering from mental ill-health.

Cultural Commission

Outreach project

CYC Nordic

To provide Nordik walking sessions as part of our ecotherapy programme.

Neighbourly

To support community beck clear up sessions.

Precious plastic

Recycling project to engage the community in improving waste reduction.

Postcode - Local Rivers

To encourage local community engagement along York becks.

HLF Grassland Monitoring

Small grant to test & launch an urban grassland quality survey pack.

Earnest Cook/Green influence

St Nicks Youth Green Influencers project.

Persimmon

To support our education programme development.

York Urban Becks

City of York Council funds to undertake ecological surveys of Hull Road park and the wider Osbaldwick beck.

Eco - Crafters

A club providing a relaxed inclusive space to develop and share crafts skills at affordable costs by primarily using recycled materials.

Kickstart Tourism

Purchase of smartphones for improved staff communication.

12 Net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021
	£	£	£
Balances at 31st March 2021			
Fixed assets	25,448	302,299	327,747
Current assets	51,656	188,882	240,538
Current liabilities	(6,562)	(164,825)	(171,387)
	70,542	311,437	396,898
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020
	£	£	£
Balances at 31st March 2020			
Fixed assets	29,273	302,299	331,572
Current assets	168,746	4,775	173,521
Current liabilities	(108,623)	-	(108,623)
	89,396	307,074	396,470



Bee on blackberry blossom, by Lewis Outing



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Connect with St Nicks
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