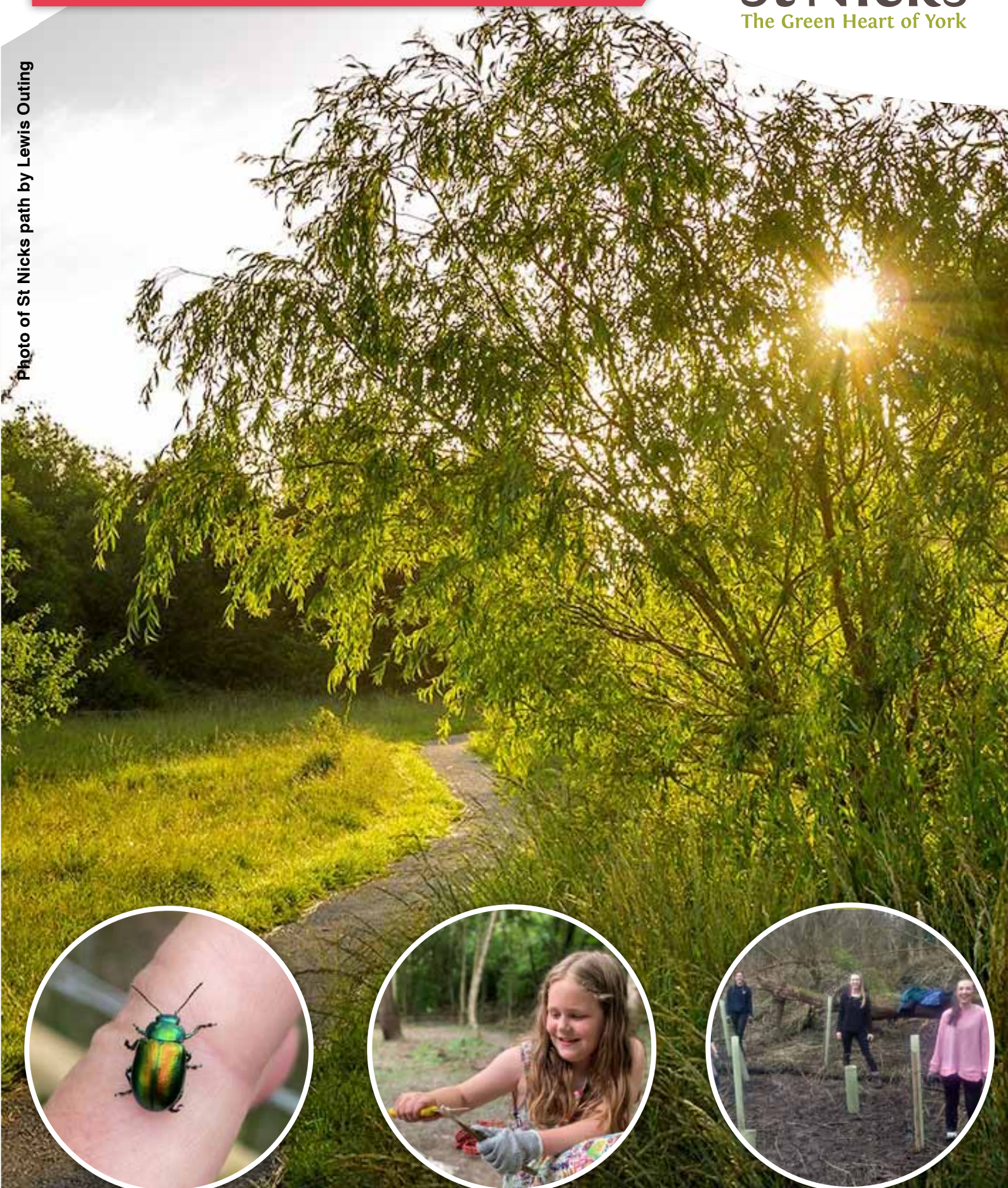


Annual report 2020-21



Photo of St Nicks path by Lewis Outing



enjoy nature



get inspired



make a difference

Contents

Message from the Chair	3
Objectives & activities	5
Connecting green spaces	7
Ecotherapy: wellbeing through nature	9
Volunteering: helping each other	10
Working towards zero waste	11
Acting on climate	12
Community engagement	13
Financial activities 2020-21	14
Who we were during 2020-21	15
Thank yous	15
Structure, governance and management	17
Independent examiner's report on the accounts	20
Statement of financial activities	21
Balance sheet	22
Statement of cash flows	23
Notes to the accounts	24

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





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

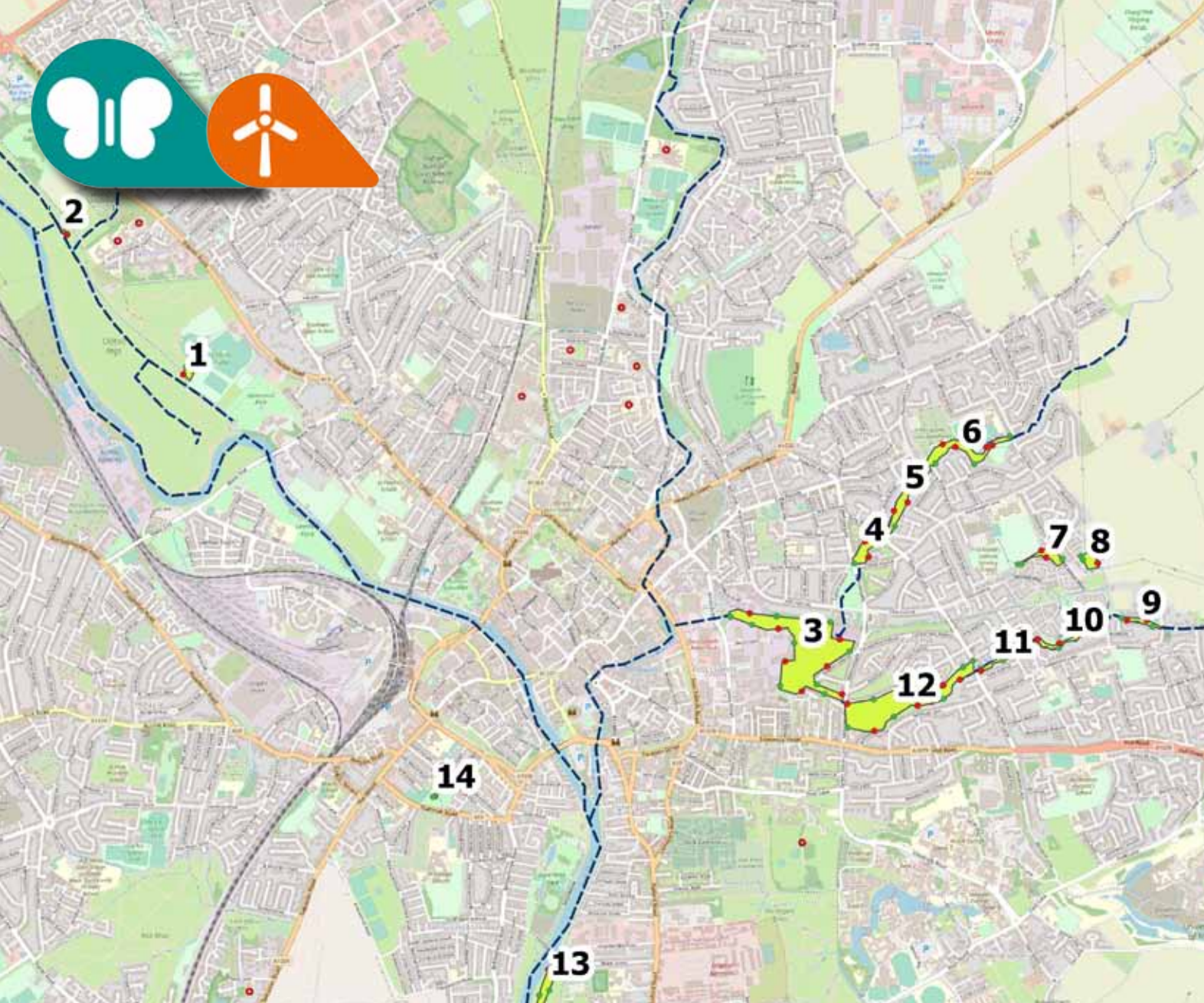
Inclusivity: providing a safe and friendly environment for all staff, volunteers and audiences

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



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 | |

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:

- 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.

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.

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

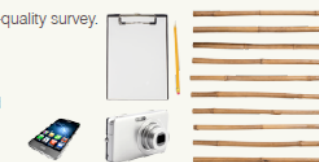
- Aerial image of site
- 9/10 bamboo canes
- Pencil and clipboard
- Camera or phone

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.





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.



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

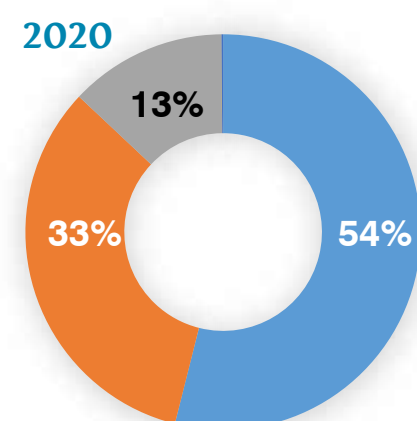
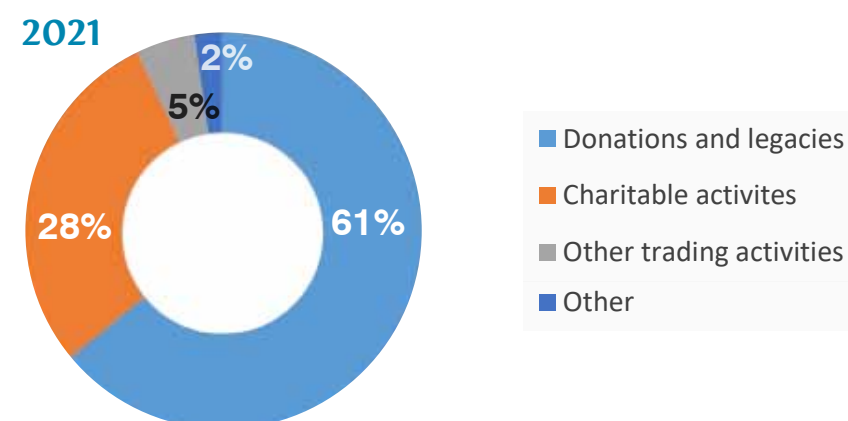
St Nicks changed its legal status to that of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 1st April 2014 with a new registration number of 1153739. The charity existed prior to that, for a period of 17 years, registered with the Charity Commission under no. 1068909. Although not available on the Charity 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

outsourcing

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

Notes to the accounts

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

3 Income and endowments	2021			2020		
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
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	97,627	111,639
	-	101,131	101,131	14,012	97,627	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	(366)	5,923
General sales	15,194	-	15,194	31,652	3,625	35,277
	16,611	-	16,611	40,091	3,259	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
--	----------------	----------------	----------------	---------------	----------------	----------------

4 Expenditure

4.1 Raising funds

Marketing & publicity costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchases for resale	-	-	1,194	-	-	1,194
	-	-	<u>1,194</u>	-	-	<u>1,194</u>

4.2 Charitable activities

Salaries	101,580	176,637	67,045	278,217	198,170	265,215
Staff training & other costs	385	1,185	1,041	1,570	1,960	3,001
Volunteer training & other costs	-	144	772	144	797	1,569
Rent & rates	243	330	338	573	2,257	2,595
Utilities	95	1,297	631	1,392	1,100	1,731
Cleaning, repairs & renewals	584	1,684	519	2,268	3,939	4,458
Health and safety & security	495	1,751	744	2,246	1,220	1,964
Telephone	504	2,964	326	3,468	657	983
Postage & stationery	144	35	136	179	451	587
Insurance	810	8,622	2,612	9,432	5,222	7,834
Memberships & subscriptions	448	1,049	209	1,497	498	707
Professional fees	7,976	24,530	10,186	32,506	14,600	24,786
Resources & equipment	992	5,665	2,269	6,657	2,443	4,712
Marketing & Publicity	(3)	62	486	59	325	811
Event costs	-	-	1,405	-	637	2,042
Other project costs	198	3,407	1,343	3,605	4,040	5,383
Independent examiner's fee	720	-	720	720	-	720
Bank charges	44	370	209	414	284	493
Other sundry costs	5	103	765	108	1,404	2,169
Bad debts provision	183	796	86	979	-	86
Depreciation	1,250	2,575	802	3,825	3,023	3,825
	<u>116,653</u>	<u>233,206</u>	<u>92,644</u>	<u>349,859</u>	<u>243,027</u>	<u>335,671</u>
Total expenditure	116,653	233,206	93,838	349,859	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	<u>720</u>	<u>720</u>

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
	<u>278,217</u>	<u>265,215</u>

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	<u>10.7</u>	<u>10.7</u>

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	<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>

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
	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	-	-
TEWV 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	-	-
Pollinarium	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 Osballdwick 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