

# Annual review 2021-22

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](http://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.

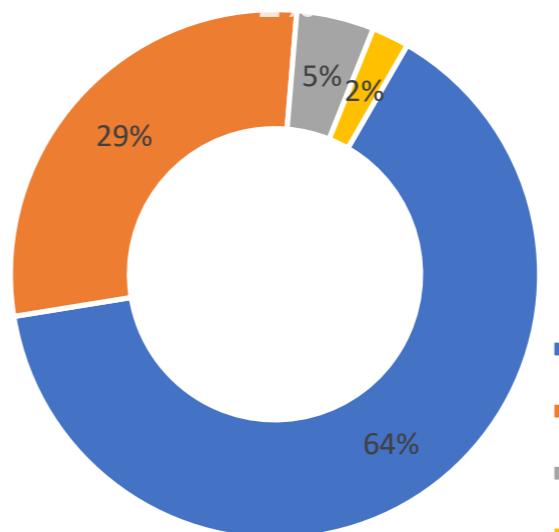
The team at St Nicks have worked incredibly hard in the last year following the challenges of the pandemic to further expand our reach across York via our Green Corridors initiative and in the provision of Habitat Services. Similarly, our Waste Minimisation activities have continued to grow, receiving 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.

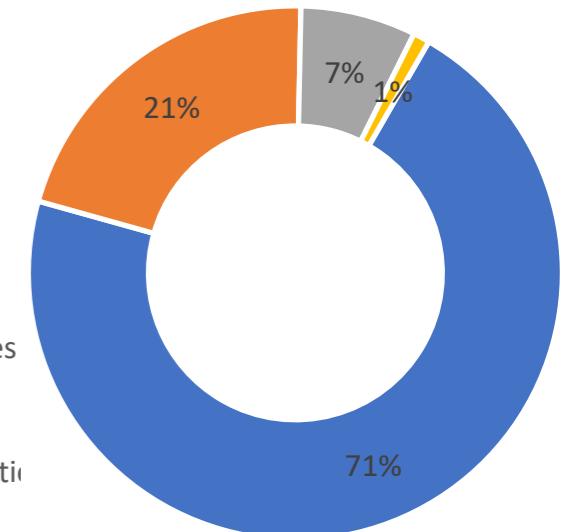
## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended: 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
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
<b>Total income</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>299,231</b>	<b>278,634</b>	<b>577,865</b>	<b>350,287</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	4.1	415	-	415	-
Charitable activities	4.2	228,551	280,410	508,961	349,859
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>228,966</b>	<b>280,410</b>	<b>509,376</b>	<b>349,859</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>70,265</b>	<b>(1,776)</b>	<b>68,489</b>	<b>428</b>
<b>Gross transfers between funds</b>					
Net movement in funds		<b>70,265</b>	<b>(1,776)</b>	<b>68,489</b>	<b>428</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		85,461	311,437	396,898	396,470
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>155,726</b>	<b>309,661</b>	<b>465,387</b>	<b>396,898</b>

2020-21



2021-22



## Thank you to our key supporters

Better Connect

Brelms 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 TEWV

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

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)

## 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)

## 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.





By Lewis Outing



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01904 411821 | [info@stnicks.org.uk](mailto:info@stnicks.org.uk) | [www.stnicks.org.uk](http://www.stnicks.org.uk)  
St Nicks Environment Centre, Rawdon Avenue, York YO10 3FW

Connect with St Nicks  
on our social media.

