

Annual report

2018-19: A year of opportunities



Photo by Lewis Outing

enjoy nature

get inspired

make a difference



St Nicks strives to inspire young generations to explore and love nature. A great opportunity to do so was being part of York Medale and Loop.pH's innovative Pollinarium at the Art Gallery over the summer. We helped build and plant up the eye-catching Plant Pavilion, and ran a series of family-friendly events.

Trustees' Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2019



Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)



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St Nicks Board of Trustees with appointed representatives of York Natural Environment Trust and City of York Council launching our Big Give Christmas Challenge.



St Nicks staff and volunteers celebrating the amazing total of £19,311 raised during the Big Give

Achievements and performance

Message from the Chair

I am very pleased to present another glowing St Nicks Annual Report.

There is currently clear public concern for our environment and natural heritage, and an eagerness to make those positive choices that we inspire and support. This rapid realisation of the seriousness of the global climate emergency, and the widespread desire to find urgent ways to tackle it, reinforce St Nicks' core message of over twenty years.

We all need to find ways to live within the resources of our one planet - Earth. This momentum also gives St Nicks great opportunities to share our knowledge, skills and experience far more widely than we have been able to do so far. We are ready and willing to do this, including through collaboration with other organisations. This work is growing already.

For us to support York to become more sustainable, it has become urgent for us to improve and expand our Environment Centre. Donations and match funding through The Big Give Christmas Challenge has enabled us to make a valuable start, carrying out a feasibility study with Native Architects which will be available in 2020. Securing the funding for the works needed, and then implementing them, will be a major challenge for the year ahead.

Our success in preserving and conserving the flora and fauna of our nature reserve is shown by the fact that experts, our Wildwatch and conservation volunteers and staff have so far identified 969 different species on site. Quite a journey from its days as a landfill site!

We have continued to look towards landscape-level habitat conservation and management for York as a whole. This has led to an expansion of our working relationship with environmental and community green space groups across the city and indeed beyond, reaching further up into the wider River Foss catchment area. This increases volunteering opportunities, access to nature, and improves management, coordination and development of sustainable wildlife habitat.

At the same time as protecting and enhancing the wildlife, we have provided access to nature for our many visitors and volunteers to this much loved bio-diverse urban green space. Within this, we continue to help people experiencing mental ill-health connect to nature for improved mental health through our Ecotherapy programme, which has had a hugely positive impact this year.

Our award-winning zero emission recycling and waste minimisation scheme continues to develop. A recent innovation made waste minimisation advice and actions more accessible to the wider public through our Zero Waste York Facebook Group. This supportive and informative group has grown to over 1,000 members in just six months.

I am, as ever, very grateful to all the staff, volunteers, fellow trustees and members who contribute so much and in so many ways. I hope you will enjoy reading more about their work in this Annual Report, not just in facts and figures but in some of the stories behind them. Along with the beautiful photos, they all help to convey how lucky we are to have St Nicks in York and give a sense of what we can achieve in the future.

Adrian Lovett





Objectives & activities



Zero carbon



Zero waste



Land use
and wildlife



Health
and happiness

Summary of the purposes of the charity set out in its governing document

The objects of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) are:

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

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts

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.

The mission of St Nicks is to create lasting positive change in actions and attitudes of York residents 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.

The range of our work may surprise you if you thought we were 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 a growing 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 over the remaining two years of our current strategy. These impacts are linked to the One Planet Living principles where we have most experience: green space protection, renewal and development; recycling and reuse; renewable energy; low impact lifestyles; and helping people to connect with nature. Further improvements in all these areas can help York to meet current needs, without compromising the ability to do so in the future.

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

The following pages highlight our main achievements towards these strategic impacts during the past financial year.



The Environment Centre during Autumn Fayre 2018, by L. Outing

St Nicks' ambition

The need St Nicks is addressing

In the UK we consume over three times the level of resources that our planet can sustain, and York is no exception. With the average UK resident's ecological footprint now 4.8 global hectares (roughly 12 acres), compared to the sustainable level of 1.72 global hectares*, there is a clear need for both local and global action.

As individuals and as a community we need to reduce our negative impacts on the local environment, which add up to create global issues that have serious consequences for wildlife as well as the health and wellbeing of people in York and around the world. Although the simple practices of daily life – such as transport, diet, and landfilling or burning of waste – may seem harmless and insignificant, their accumulated effects can be seen in the loss of wildlife habitat, diminishing urban green spaces, or poor air and water quality.

St Nicks' strategy, based on four One Planet Living principles, aims to help counteract environmentally damaging activities in York and to promote positive sustainable lifestyles. By working together towards our vision and taking active part in our activities, York residents can adopt a more eco-friendly lifestyle which helps to reduce our collective negative impacts. Our ambition is to bridge the gap between environmental awareness and action in order to help make York a more sustainable city.

* Global Footprint Network National Footprint Accounts, 2018 Edition

We undertake all our charitable works under the umbrella of our organisational values:

- **Sustainability:** conducting all activities in a way that is beneficial or neutral to the environment
- **Inclusivity:** providing a safe and friendly environment for all staff, volunteers and audiences participating in all events and projects
- **Enthusiasm:** in all our volunteers, staff and trustees for St Nicks' vision
- **Expertise:** to retain and develop the skills of staff, board of trustees and the wider pool of individuals involved with the organisation
- **Education:** on sustainability to allow people to make informed choices
- **Partnerships:** working with other organisations and individuals to achieve shared goals, take opportunities and increase capacity

Our ambitions for 2019-20

After making progress on several of our ambitions from last year's report, next year we want to go bigger, reach further and have the best impact possible:

- In addition to developing our existing working relationships, we seek to work further with higher education establishments and researchers to help us, our beneficiaries and our supporters gain a deeper understanding of our impacts and their effects on our lives and the environment.
- As well as increasing people's awareness of and supporting people to achieve zero waste and 'Plastic a Lot Less' lifestyles, we also aim to work more closely with organisations and businesses to help them understand the impact of their resource use and reduce their waste to landfill.
- We also plan to build on and improve our ecological surveying and monitoring activities both on St Nicks nature reserve and across the city to underpin habitat restoration and wildlife corridor creation.
- To house our growing workforce (staff and volunteers) and number of beneficiaries and visitors and to continue to grow as a centre for information, inspiration and innovation, we need to expand. We will use the coming year to consult with stakeholders on their space needs as well as taking the time to raise funds.

Our work is only made possible through the generosity of our fantastic members, supporters and volunteers, and the income we receive from funders. Thanks to all!



Cinnamon Bug



Blue Shieldbug



Bullfinch, by L. Outing

Between our fantastic conservation volunteers, visiting groups, staff and working with other groups across the city we have:

planted 4,800 wildflowers and other plants

planted 80 trees to develop woodland understory

sown 14kg of wildflower seed mixes in woodlands, wetland, meadows and rough grasslands

coppiced half an acre of woodland

planted over 1,000 trees to create 250 metres of new species rich hedgerow and to develop existing hedgerows;

laid 150 metres of existing hedgerow.

Green spaces: developing a sustainable approach to natural habitat management



We continue to hold the Green Flag Community Award that recognises St Nicks Local Nature Reserve as one of the best green spaces in the country. For the 10th year running!

This year we have added three new species, two birds and one plant, to our list of specific priority species for which we have created and managed habitats. This list has now reached 19 specific priority species recorded on the Nature Reserve and listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan:

- **Mammals:** Water Vole, Hedgehog, Otter, Common and Soprano Pipistrelle bats
- **Birds:** Lesser Whitethroat, House and Tree Sparrow, Common Bullfinch, Song Thrush, Lessor Redpoll, Herring Gull, Starling
- **Plants:** Common Juniper
- **Invertebrates:** Tansy Beetle and moths: Blood Vein, Cinnabar, Dot, Rosy Rustic, Shaded Broadbar



Ecological monitoring

Wildwatch

Our amazing Wildwatch Group continue to meet every Wednesday morning come rain or shine. And while this past year some of the founder members were unable to attend as regularly, others luckily stepped in to lead the sessions. It is fantastic to see how year on year this group sustains itself while continuing to develop. The ever increasing species list is a testament to their invaluable efforts. So drumroll please... We are now up to an amazing 969 species identified so far! We are confident as the groups ID skills continue to develop we will hit 1,000 species before the end of 2019.

Just to give you a taster of what the group finds, here are some figures. A total of about 270 invertebrate species was identified during 2018, over 40 of them new records for the reserve. Notable among the 40 new species were Bird Cherry Ermine moth, Blue Shieldbug (bringing our shieldbug total to 12), Cinnamon Bug and Adonis Ladybird. Due to cold weather at the start of the season, butterfly numbers were disappointingly low throughout the year so our total of 20 species recorded was a good result. Brown Argus butterfly was a new/rediscovered species for St Nicks.

The group also recorded almost 60 bird species, including 16 flying over the reserve. Fourteen Bullfinches, St Nicks iconic birds, were seen on one mid-January day, and Goldfinch flocks sometimes numbered as many as 30. Treecreeper was a frequent visitor, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Kingfisher less so, while Grey Wagtail was occasionally seen on the becks. Osbalwick Beck hosted a Water Rail for some months during winter and spring, and there was a single Common Snipe on Tang Hall Beck in October. For a full low-down on Wildwatch observation, visit our blog or come along on a Wednesday 10am-12 noon to join the group. Both experts and beginners get a warm welcome.

Ecological monitoring plans

All of our developing projects have helped us to focus our habitat and species knowledge and identification skills. In the coming year we are looking to bring those skills together to formalise our monitoring on both St Nicks and other green sites across the city. This will involve collecting baseline ecological data and recording subsequent changes to help us ensure effective future management. An exciting part of this has been the development of a citizen science style accessible Grassland Monitoring Pack. This has been developed with the Stockholm Environment Institute at University of York and Ptyxis Ecology to look at the structure and botanical value of urban grasslands. The pack provides both a current biodiversity health check and a baseline to compare against in the coming years. These Field Studies Council printed packs will be launched for testing in summer 2019.



St Nicks staff and volunteers showcasing scything during the Bloom! festival on the city walls, by L. Outing



“I gained a wealth of experience during the project. I vastly improved my plant identification which was largely learnt during the Ptyxis training courses, led by botanist John O'Reilly. I went from knowing a handful of common plant species to supporting guided walks in wildflower identification at sites such as Clifton Backies [pictured] and the Foss Islands Cycle Path.” Eithne Phillips, Meadow Keepers Champion and Project Intern

Networking green space across York

In last year's report we spoke of the continued growth of our activities from a small 24 acre nature reserve to supporting a number of other green spaces and groups across the city. Key achievements this year have been:

Grassland Management: Meadow Keepers

Thanks to the National Lottery, this 2-year project successfully improved the management and condition of 170 acres of grassland habitat across 15 of York's green spaces. This was made possible by engaging and training almost 300 people to learn new skills, build knowledge and gain experience in grasslands and their low impact management. This has also ensured sustainability and longevity of the projects impact. Feedback showed that participants felt York was in a much healthy place for continuing to improve grasslands across the city thanks to the Meadow Keepers project.

While there has been plenty of successes, the project feedback also demonstrated a clear desire to build on this success to ensure the achievements for the grassland habitats and momentum is not lost. This led us to look at developing a wider reaching partnership project to tackle greater issues around green space management in the city. The success of Meadow Keepers and six years of habitat sensitive grassland management experience in York has given us the confidence and prepared us to take such a wide-reaching project forward.

Rivers and Becks: River Foss Catchment Monitoring Project

Over the past year we have been developing our links with the River Foss Society, Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency. This has included engaging and training local people to monitor the River Foss through accessible community based science. During the year we have supported a core group of 14 community scientists to undertake surveys at targeted sites across the River Foss catchment area, initially starting on the section from Sheriff Hutton Bridge to York. Together with the group we set up monitoring schemes for riparian mammals and river walkover surveys. It didn't take us long to discover a number of Water Vole populations on the River Foss, as well as signs of Otters pretty much everywhere we looked. Sadly, Water Vole populations are still quite fragmented along the river, largely due to the American Mink predation.

It is really encouraging to witness the first hand success story that has been Otters recovery after being absent from almost the whole of the county in the 1970s due to river pollution. It is a clear sign our rivers are much cleaner than 50 years ago but there is still plenty more to do. As part of the project we are not just monitoring for wildlife but flood and river quality issues such as erosion, pollution and the spread of invasive species. In the coming year we will look to continue this project up stream of Sherriff Hutton and also on the Becks catchment upstream of St Nicks, as well as continuing the habitat improvements at the ever improving Heworth Holme site.



Woodland: Forgotten corners

Thanks to the Forgotten Corners funding through the City of York Council, this year St Nicks had the pleasure of teaming up with the Blueberry Academy to work on the small area of woodland near Millennium Bridge. With the help of the Blueberry learners, we have greatly improved the woodland for both wildlife and the people who use the area. Before the project, the woodland was over planted and the dense tree canopy meant very few wildflowers were able to grow in the lack of light. During the project we thinned out some of the taller Birch and Ash trees and planted understory species, such as Holly. This mix of tall and lower growing trees will create habitat for low nesting birds, such as Tits and Wrens, as well as high nesting birds, such as Thrushes and Crows.

We also created habitat piles using the wood from the coppiced trees and grass cuttings from the Meadow Keepers project. These habitat piles will be great for small mammals, bees and other invertebrates that burrow into the wood or live under logs – particularly once the wood has started to decay. It will also be the perfect place for fungi to start growing which is incredibly important for cycling nutrients through an ecosystem.

In clearing several areas of mosses, nettle and other encroachment species, wildflower patches were created through planting bulbs and sowing seeds of native species such a Wild Garlic, Winter Aconites and Bluebells.



Forgotten Corners project volunteer at Millennium Fields woodland



Nestle volunteers planting a hedge



Poppy Road scythers enjoying a break

Not only will these wildflowers add some colour to the woodland but they will increase the biodiversity value by providing a food source for pollinators and other invertebrates, in turn providing a food source for birds and bats.

Not only were we able to transform the woodland but the learners of the Blueberry Academy showed such an improvement in their skills and confidence. It was truly a pleasure to work with them and watch the group develop. One of the learners said: **"I will really miss this project, I've enjoyed coppicing the trees and seeing the wildflowers grow. I'll come back to check the site even though the project is over!"**

Hedgerows

Hedgerows are a feature of our environment that has been disappearing at an alarming rate, so it is important that we do our bit here at St Nicks and hopefully inspire others to do the same. Both newly planted and laid hedges can provide instant micro-habitats for wildlife as we expose bare ground for various basking and burrowing species. While this clear space can soon be colonised by plants from any pre-existing seed banks or from climbers and trailers moving in, we often plant and sow these areas to give the native species a boost. A lot of hedgerow tree species flower and fruit in some form which adds more foraging areas as well as refuge when these hedgerows thicken up. With the nature reserve surrounded by industrial areas and housing we have no excuse for not having hedgerows full of wildlife along our paths and boundaries. During this winter we focused our efforts on ensuring a continuous hedgerow on the western boundary, continuing our programme of laying mature hedgerows across the site. We have become pretty good at laying curved hedges as they do not always follow a straight boundary or path line.

We are developing more nursery sites to grow and cultivate trees, plants and seeds for the nature reserve, while also transplanting from other areas of the nature reserve, which has significantly reduced the number of plants we have needed to buy. It is not just St Nicks nature reserve that has been benefitting. This year we have been using our home grown plants to increase diversity and numbers at other sites, such as Millennium Fields Meadow, and transplanting from Heworth Holme to St Nicks, and from Millennium Fields Meadow to Heworth Holme. Sharing this resource around means not only are we less reliant on grants funding and donations for plants, we are also ensuring we are using plants from local provenance.

Poppy Road Meadows: a story of transformation

From amenity grassland, where short, mown grass was the dominating species, Poppy Road Meadows have been transformed into a thriving wildflower meadow. Originally planted to pay tribute to the Holgate Ward community who lived and died during the First World War, Poppy Road Meadows is unique to other War memorials. While the meadow is a memorial, it is also a haven for wildlife; both flora and fauna which has attracted a broad spectrum of people from the local community.

A total of 1.5 acres, Poppy Road Meadows are actually two sites divided by a cycle path: the first meadow lies between the old Holgate Carriage-works and the Fox Pub on Holgate Road. The 'Fox site' as it's known, is a perennial wildflower meadow with species that with an annual mowing regime will continue to grow back year on year. The second meadow can be found further up Holgate Road, a gently sloping green space opposite the local business park. This site was planted with a cornfield annual mix which needed to be re-sown into exposed soil after every season in order to keep growing.

As part of the Meadow Keepers project we worked with Poppy Road Meadows project members who were grateful for the inspiration, training and momentum we created. The group received regular scythe training sessions that gave the group a chance to hone their skills and socialise more freely without the noise of a lawn mower. Scything is a heritage skill that in days gone by was practiced by anyone who worked or owned meadows and grassland. One of the group members, Jean, enjoyed learning how to scythe: "I think that's really satisfying to see what you can do without a lawn mower. You do get a lovely rhythm going once you've started and got the hang of it. I quite liked doing it...anything that keeps me moving."

Another group member, Gordon Eastham, is an award winning Head Groundsman for the University of York campus, "Species rich wildflower meadows are an important habitat. They're good for breeding birds and pollinators; particularly bees which we all know are struggling." Two exciting species of wildflower on the site are a Common Spotted Orchid and yellow rattle; a fantastic asset to grasslands and meadows as it allows wildflowers to establish themselves. Described as the a 'holy grail' by some it is important to bear in mind that yellow rattle can become a problem itself if allowed to run rampant and can quickly become the dominating species.

In the months after the planting of the meadows, volunteers and passers-by alike were greeted with a sight of brilliant colour from the wildflowers that grew in that first year.



Get Gardening participants planting herbs and harvesting their produce



Woodworkers finishing off a birdbox

There is an ever-increasing pool of evidence that links time spent outdoors to positive effects on our health and wellbeing. Comments from many of our Ecotherapy participants about their own experience are evidence of just that.

“St Nicks has felt like a real haven when life has got rough. Creative Writing has helped me to translate my brain to words, book group has got me back into reading and helped me to grow in confidence, and get gardening re-connected me with the world around me.” Naomi

“I always learn something new. Tuesdays are the highlight of my week.”
Discover Nature participant

“I always feel so welcome and a real part of the St Nicks community”
Bearing Fruit participant

Ecotherapy: connecting people with nature



We are pleased to report that over the past year St Nicks Ecotherapy has consistently raised the mental and physical wellbeing of beneficiaries experiencing mental ill health, through building a connection with nature. The variety of nature-based groups we offer alongside a bespoke one to one mentoring programme has been the key to the project's success. This success has been evidenced by exceeding our expectations of referrals to and engagement with the project, participant feedback and the strengthening partnerships that have enhanced our provision. As a result St Nicks Ecotherapy is now in the top three providers of service regarding mental health in York (based on numbers of people engaging). We are recognised as a quality provider of a unique provision.

The benefits and positive impact of St Nicks Ecotherapy have also been recognised by funders with us securing a further five years of funding for the project from The National Lottery Community Fund. This is a huge achievement as it provides some medium-term stability for the project and its beneficiaries. This breathing space means we can concentrate on developing our Ecotherapy further, strengthening our position with commissioners, funders and partnerships.

During the last year there were over 100 enquiries and referrals to our Ecotherapy. Of these enquiries, 76 individuals enrolled and engaged on the programme for a minimum of 3 months, collectively attending over 2,000 hours of activities. Participants have access to bespoke one to one mentoring with a qualified and experienced mentor and have accessed over 230 sessions, in addition to ad hoc mentoring that takes place regularly across the week. Feedback from participants, Ecotherapy session leaders and the wider support teams and organisations regarding St Nicks' Ecotherapy approach has been phenomenally positive and acknowledges the impact this level of support has on reducing dependency on primary and clinical services.

Beneficiaries influence the design of the Ecotherapy Programme, specifically regarding the activities on offer. Through evaluation of comments it was highlighted that many participants found difficulty with their concentration due to mental ill health. Notably many people said that they are no longer able to concentrate on reading. As a result we introduced the Eco Book Club where there is no pressure to read a whole book independently. Our experienced tutor picks passages for the group to enjoy and discuss as a shared reading experience. One participant commented: “The club offers a friendly social session for those interested in books and literature with a link to the natural world.”

We are also really proud of the collaborative working relationships we have made to enhance our Ecotherapy work. Through community link partnership working with York St John University Converge and the TEWV NHS Discovery Hub we have been able to run two additional groups to meet the growing demand of people wishing to engage with Ecotherapy. This relationship expands participant capacity and creates a two-way path for individuals moving between organisations and the levels of support they offer.

“The staff and volunteers are outstanding, the feedback from beneficiaries regarding the staff could not be more positive and in my interactions with staff it is clear that they are not only highly skilled and part of a dedicated organisation but that they really care about the impact they are having on individual lives.” Emma McKenzie: TEWV NHS Occupational Therapist Community Engagement Clinical Lead Discovery Hub

Not only have we been running Ecotherapy on site at St Nicks but through the TEWV Innovation Fund we have been running groups at both 22 The Avenue (City of York Council residential unit) and Peppermill Court, (NHS Acute inpatient hospital). This funding bridges the gap for patients and residents between intensive mental health interventions into the community upon discharge. This work has been overwhelmingly successful as a referral pathway with 35% of overall referrals joining St Nicks Ecotherapy directly from Peppermill Court on discharge. Our work at Peppermill Court even made it onto the front cover of of their Insight newsletter (edition 64, Spring 2019)!

“The success of the project has been possible with the commitment of St Nicks staff. Every member of the team showed consistent professionalism in their approach to team work and communication and their commitment to quality. The respect they showed towards the patients and Occupational Therapy staff was exemplary with wellbeing of all at the heart of every session.” Cecile Gimarangan: Senior Occupational Therapist, Peppermill Court



Our team had a great time racing in the Micklegate Run Soapbox Challenge with their upcycled cart representing St Nicks



Our electric vehicles, affectionately dubbed Doris and Edith



Tassimo disks clearly illustrate the need to properly rethink rubbish. We encourage all our collectors to look into alternative (and cheaper) ways of enjoying their coffee.

Waste minimisation: rethinking rubbish



2018-19 saw the recycling team consolidate the success of previous years. Our business recycling service has grown to over 150 customers and we extended our capacity to include an additional electric vehicle, aka Doris, to our fleet. In total the team has diverted 480 tonnes of materials from landfill over the past year, including 117 tonnes from 150 businesses.

Our residents have increased the tonnage of recycling we collect by the equivalent of 37 cows! We've carried out even more waste audits and been busy giving talks and workshops to a wide variety of people – everything from single classes to school assemblies and community groups – on waste minimisation and busting myths around plastics.

We have also continued to increase both the volume of recycling we collect and the types of material we can recycle thanks to partnership work with ACE UK and TerraCycle. Just in this financial year we sent off the following to be recycled into fencing, garden furniture or other new items by TerraCycle:

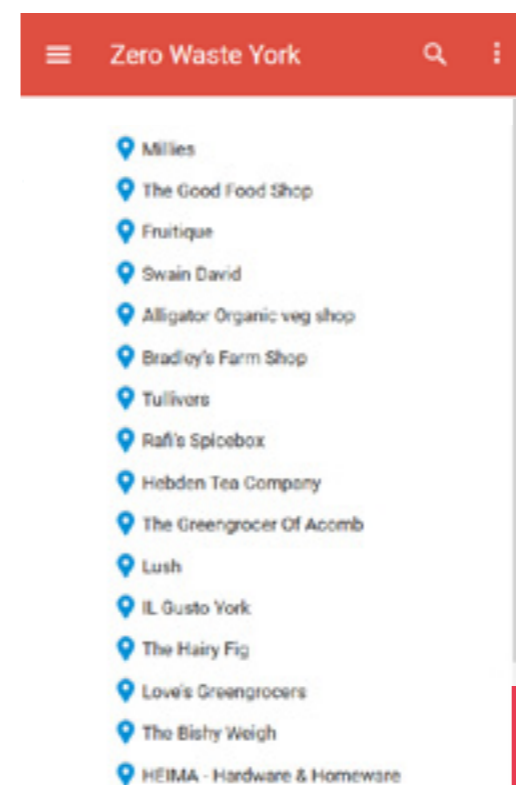
202,766 Tassimo coffee disks

27,231 trigger heads and other cleaning product items

16,179 pens

Across all our “brigades” we raised over £4,000 for St Nicks in this way. Still, we're always keen to encourage a rethink because less waste in the first place is even better than recycling.

In 2018 we wanted to make waste minimisation advice more accessible so we started our Zero Waste York Facebook Group. It is a supportive and informative group sharing tips, information and the pitfalls of trying to live Zero Waste in York, including a map of local business that can help through refills and other wastebusting offers. The group grew from 0 to over 1,000 members within just a few months, showing the increased interest in the topic.





GoodGym

Volunteering: making change happen



Once again St Nicks owe a huge thank you to all of our incredible volunteers who have helped us to manage and improve our beautiful nature reserve, survey and monitor the various wildlife species found on site, input data sets such as species information and volunteer hours, facilitate events, fundraise and so much more. It is our volunteers' time and dedication that helps us achieve our goals as an organisation. During the last year over 200 volunteers have contributed a total of 9,100 hours which is an incredible feat. To put this into perspective, it is the equivalent of the charity having an additional 5 full time members of staff!

Not only have we had regular volunteers help us over the last year but we've also held a number of one off corporate volunteer days, hosting groups from various organisations including Santander, Portakabin Limited, Nestlé, HSE, Network Rail, Siemens, and DEFRA. These groups have helped us with big conservation tasks on the nature reserve from beck planting, to tree transplanting, path building and scything.

We have seen an increase in the number of young people who have chosen to do work experience or Duke of Edinburgh placements with us with a 100% increase in hours donated by placement students.

We have also continued to work with the Blueberry Academy and now have learners in three times per week. This allows us to complete more tasks around the nature reserve but also gives the learners an opportunity to gain new skills and improve their confidence.

And we can't talk about volunteering without mentioning the tremendous force that is GoodGym. GoodGym are a community of runners who combine fitness activities with community tasks, missions and all round doing good. Though they help with a wide variety of community projects, GoodGym have been helping St Nicks over the last couple of years and now do monthly sessions with up to 40 runners helping with conservation tasks as well as Eco-Active Days and other ad hoc volunteering sessions. Whether it's raking up grass cuttings in the dark, wading through the becks to remove invasive Himalayan Balsam or digging out and moving heavy clay – there is nothing that GoodGym won't do to help.

A volunteer's story: Jacob Peters

18 year old Jacob has been volunteering with us since September 2017. Jacob started as a pupil at Archbishop Holgate School and joined us every Tuesday for our Practical Conservation session in order to gain experience of a work place and learn outside of the classroom. Though Jacob has learnt a lot of different skills through his practical work such as planting and scything, he has also built great relationships with fellow volunteers and the staff at St Nicks, proving volunteering is so much more than learning new skills, but becoming part of a community. Although Jacob's placement ended with the school year, Jacob continued to volunteer over the summer holidays because he enjoyed the work he does here so much and has grown close to the people he worked with. When asked about how he feels about St Nicks, Jacob said "It's such a friendly place. It's a big site but you soon get to know it and get to know all the great people here. It's just a nice place to be." Jacob has now got a job at Primark and was successful in securing a place with the Blueberry Academy to further develop his skills.



Wildlife scrape planting



Wetland meadow improvements

To raise £19,311 for St Nicks people got...



Our thanks go to all funders big or small but, apart from the Garfield Weston Foundation who supported the Big Give (above), we would especially like to thank the following:



Stonegate Singers, by L. Outing

“[The Summer Concert] was a wonderful evening and represented St Nicks brilliantly: **inspirational, uplifting, purposeful**, celebrating the richness and beauty of life and each person’s equal importance and value as a thread in the fabric of our world.”

Thea Jacob

Raising funds and awareness: thank yous!

Many individuals, families, companies, trusts and statutory agencies have funded the work of St Nicks during the last year. We are grateful to them all. We simply could not do the work we do without their support and generosity.

Showing our commitment to high fundraising standards, we have voluntarily registered with the Fundraising Regulator. In our 20th anniversary year as a registered charity, our diary featured 36 engagements with at least 1,500 people. These included fundraising events and training sessions as well as stalls and talks or tours for a variety of interest groups. This is all on top of our weekly Eco-Crafters club, venue hire and drop-in volunteering events.

Big Give, Big Thanks

With kind match support of the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2018 saw individuals and businesses coming together to help us raise £19,311 to kick off plans for the renovation and expansion of our Environment Centre. This project will make our building fit for the future growth of our work supporting York to help to address the climate and environmental emergency locally and help us better serve the community. We look forward to seeking substantial further support for this exciting development for the city as a whole. Highlights of the Christmas Challenge fundraising included:

- **Natter for Nature** tea parties held by Singing Together and Stonegate Singers choirs, Wild Magazine at the University of York and Derwenthorpe residents. We also ran another Natter at St Nicks on 1st December, which combined nattering with reminiscing over our archive photos. We were delighted to be joined by our local MP Rachael Maskell.
- **Trike Challenge** where some of our staff team and Trustees rode our recycling trikes (tricycles) more than 135 miles between them on the Solar System Greenway. This is the average distance all four of our vehicles cover each week so doing it with few gears, and some inexperienced riders, in just one day was no mean feat. The team’s efforts led to us being featured on BBC Radio York’s Finders Keepers.
- **Winter Heart Warmer** event at Belfrey Hall, which was a great feast cooked up by Joe Fennerty of Food Circle York who wowed the 80+ crowd with a delicious array of dishes made from local organic fruit and veg. Helping to create a good mood on the night were the lovely Barberellas singers while our fantastic patron Anneliese Emmans Dean did a sterling job of keeping our guests entertained with poems, and even got them chanting demands for wildflowers! We also had local poet and Ecotherapy participant Brinley Price reading a few of his poems inspired by his involvement with St Nicks. Huge thanks go to everyone who helped out on the night but a special mention goes to Lewis Outing for taking photos and videos, and to Jules Dymond who made a spectacular Christmas cake for our raffle draw as well as puddings for sale.

We thank all individuals and organisations who supported us in the Big Give Christmas Challenge, particularly Illingworths Insurance & Financial Services, William Birch Construction York, The John Lally International Foundation, Bradshaw EV, Premcrest, Food Circle York and York Natural Health.

It was been a truly remarkable journey and a fantastic start towards expanding the Environment Centre so that we can achieve even more than we already have in the 20 years or so of being a charity – thank you for being part of it!

Other fundraising events

To support all the work we do and increase wellbeing of our supporters, we held several other successful fundraising events. We started with a Summer Concert which proved to be a great evening featuring fantastic local talent: David Hammond on piano, Sarah Sigsworth on cello, community choir The Stonegate Singers, who sang songs from around the world as well as the premiere of David Hammond’s choral arrangement of ‘Haiku for St Nicks’ written by local poet Brinley Price. Brinley himself read a couple of his other poems inspired by St Nicks while Cliff Wilton read out extracts of the ‘Tang Hall Tip 1939-1947’ poem.

On a fine February day when temperatures jumped from below zero to 14°C, it felt fitting that the annual fundraising ceilidh wasn’t just about dancing and raising over £700. We also used the opportunity to mark The Climate Coalition’s #ShowtheLove campaign by collecting messages for local MPs as well as ideas for cutting



Nature Explorers



Cycle tour of Homes for the Future

carbon, as the need to urgently act on climate is becoming increasingly clear. Another big thank you goes to Illingworths for sponsoring the event for the sixth year running, and to all the individuals and companies who donated raffle prizes.

York Open Eco Homes

The project featured a couple of joint Energy Café events with York Community Energy as well as a talk on How to Super-insulate Your Home. The main event, titled Homes for the Future, started with a low carbon lunch from haybox cookers which was followed by a cycle ride to visit the City of York Council Eco Depot, three local Passivhauses (insulated so well that little active heating is required) and an eco-retrofitted Victorian house. Plenty of other visitors used the sunny day to see what their fellow residents have done to lower their carbon footprint and have lovely warm homes.

Exploring and enjoying nature

Apart from several school visits, we ran our third series of school holiday Nature Explorers sessions for 113 children aged 3-12, which engaged them in a variety of activities from pond dipping and bug hunts to den building. All received good feedback.

A special treat for all ages was provided by Alex Metcalf of the Tree Listening Project whose sensitive recording equipment allowed our AGM participants to hear the sound of water rushing up our 160+ year old lime trees.

Our 13th annual Autumn Fayre went very well despite high winds forcing us to cancel tree climbing and local group stalls which were due to be in the wildflower meadow. Almost 300 visitors, including 90 children, squeezed into the Environment Centre grounds and took part in a variety of activities from apple bowling to willow weaving with Angela Cole (also of Yorkshire Hurdles), foraging with Carl Wain and wildlife safaris with Phil of Green Underwing Wildlife Education. Thanks to help from Abundance, we pressed more than eight crates of apples which resulted in around 100 litres of delicious apple juice being made and drunk on the day. A particular highlight of the event was Bake Off which raised over £200 for the charity and attracted 14 contestants including local businesses The Principal Hotel York, Trinacria Cafe Bar, Bistro Guy and Brunswick Organic Nursery Cafe.

After the dry summer, we were pleasantly surprised to find plenty of fungi on our October walk led by Malcolm Greaves. A total of 20 species were discovered, including Coltricia confluens fungus which has only been recorded about 10 times in the UK before and never in Yorkshire.

Doing our best to welcome people of all ages, we were pleased to have received York Mumbler's approval as a family-friendly place recommended by York parents. The website serves and connects local parenting community.

Raising awareness

We love showing off what our staff, volunteers and nature have achieved because it also showcases One Planet Living principles in action and hopefully inspires others to adopt them. We delivered 9 talks and tours for various groups, including a guest lecture at York St John University, and attended 9 local events such as York Mosque Open Day with a stall. We are always happy to engage new audiences with nature, waste minimisation, ecotherapy or tackling climate change.

Despite increasingly struggling to fit in our own activities into the Centre, we also continue using gaps in the busy schedule to provide a unique venue for a variety of other groups and individuals. The hosting of 18 training sessions and private parties including a book launch boosted the charity's unrestricted funds and brought new people to St Nicks. Get in touch if you'd like us to host your event or have a talk for your group.

Eco-Crafters Club

The club has continued to be busy making lovely crafts which are sold at the Environment Centre and stalls to generate funds for the club's activities. Their toy fairies made from felt proved a big hit at the British Wool Show. The club upcycle materials where possible to help inspire others to rethink items and materials they may consider as rubbish. Open to all skill levels, membership has helped form friendships and tackle isolation.



Feedback from Nature Explorers

“Fantastic, had a wonderful time and learned a lot!”

“Best day of the holidays!”

“A really interesting afternoon, the girls really loved it.”



Alex Metcalfe of the Tree Listening project at our AGM, by L. Outing



Autumn Fayre, by L. Outing



Lord Mayor at Gary Haq's book launch



St Nicks’ patron Anneliese Emmans Dean, performing her poems at the Winter Heart Warmer event. Anneliese runs the Big Buzz, which promotes sustainability through creativity, and learning through laughter, rhythm and rhyme. Anneliese has supported us since 2007. (photo by L. Outing)



St Nicks’ patron Kate Pickett who is Professor of Epidemiology at the University of York and co-author of The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Better for Everyone. (photo by Alex Holland)

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 3ST

Names of the trustees who manage the charity

Trustees & their background	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Adrian Lovett Retired NHS Manager	Chair	
Alison Green Retired teacher	Vice Chair	Stepped down September 2018
Ed Mawdsley Local small business owner	Treasurer	Stepped down September 2018
Stuart Leslie Lloyds Bank Relationship Director	Treasurer	From October 2018
Trevor Barlow IT Consultant	Secretary, Vice Chair	Changed roles in September 2018
Judith Rigg Retired head teacher	Secretary	From September 2018
Mark Bates Business development manager		
Pat Hearn Service user		
Lars Kramm Senior Project Officer		
Jane Thurlow Retired senior manager in the NHS		
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

On a regular basis, the Trustees and Chief Officer review in detail an analysis of risks facing the organisation and ensure that systems are in place to mitigate these risks. This was last undertaken during March 2017.

Charities are coming under closer scrutiny and to ensure our continued transparency we are committed to improving our high standards of governance, policies and procedural systems in line with best practice.

We will continue to seek both core and project funding. Competition is intense and increasing for individual and corporate fundraising, for grant support from grant making bodies and for a shrinking public ‘pot’. 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, Stockholm Environment Institute/OPAL, Sustrans Greener Greenways, Yorkshire Mammal Group, Buglife, Converge and the Discovery Hub at York St John University, Blueberry Academy, York CVS, York Mind and TerraCycle.

In conclusion, 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. Thank you!

Organisational Development

St Nicks continues to gain recognition at a local and national level. This year we were a recipient of the Duke of York’s Community Initiative Award 2019 following a rigorous external review. We were also finalists for a Charity Governance Award in the “Improving Impact (charities with 4-25 paid staff)” category. Our Recycling Team were finalists for the letsrecycle.com Awards for Excellence in Recycling and Waste Management in the “Collection Crew of the Year” category. Our Waste & Recycling Manager, Sam Taylor, continued her placing in the top 25 of the UK’s recycling professionals as listed by Resource Magazine’s Hot 100.

Inside the organisation, we have been developing the way we work together so that we can make even more of a difference. We have been working on improving our monitoring and evaluation, trading income, fundraising activities, and staff development. While we are only part of the way through this process, we have already taken several steps to making positive changes, including training, consultations, strategy discussions and systems reviews.



Tree blossom by L. Outing

Financial review

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

As anticipated, the charity has enjoyed significant growth for the third year in a row, with a 13% increase in income from prior year. This higher level will be maintained in the new financial year (2019/20).

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. St Nicks aims to hold free reserves that would enable its orderly closure in such an eventuality providing sufficient funds to cover management, administration and support costs as well as the ability to meet all contractual obligations of the CIO, including employee redundancy costs. Additionally, the free reserves are to cover the costs of allowing for an orderly wind down of services, and so as not to have a sudden and adverse impact upon service users 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.

Amount of reserves held

£395,799 of which £324,111 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:

Signature	
Full Name	ADRIAN LOVETT
Position	CHAIR
Date	16th September 2019



Broad-bodied Chaser dragonfly, by L. Outing

Independent examiner’s report on the accounts

I report on the accounts of: Friends of St Nicholas Fields
for the year ended 31st March 2019 which are set out on pages 34-48

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner’s report

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

Independent examiner’s statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention
1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:
to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act
have not been met; or
2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Karen Wood
Karen Wood ACMA Date: 30/3/19
Outsource Accounting Services & Independent Examinations
Hiscox Building, Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PR

Statement of financial activities

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended: 31 March 2019

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2019	Total 2018
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3.1	36,401	185,188	221,589	187,079
Charitable activities	3.2	11,281	93,751	105,032	104,055
Other trading activities	3.3	35,232	2,298	37,530	31,466
Investments	3.4	20	-	20	2
Other	3.5	2,139	-	2,139	1,015
Total income	3	85,073	281,237	366,310	323,617
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4.1	816	-	816	4,067
Charitable activities	4.2	70,840	294,389	365,229	313,007
Total expenditure	4	71,656	294,389	366,045	317,074
Net income/(expenditure)		13,417	(13,152)	265	6,543
Gross transfers between funds		421	(421)	-	-
Net movement in funds		13,838	(13,573)	265	6,543
Total funds brought forward		77,341	318,193	395,534	388,991
Total funds carried forward		91,179	304,620	395,799	395,534

Balance sheet

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Balance Sheet as at: 31st March 2019

	Note	2019	2018
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	7	335,397	336,290
Total fixed assets		335,397	336,290
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	8	126,424	67,602
Debtors & prepayments	9	34,091	49,259
Stock		1,683	1,970
Total current assets		162,198	118,831
Current liabilities: amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors and accruals	10	(101,796)	(59,587)
Net current assets		60,402	59,244
Net Assets		395,799	395,534
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted Funds (General)	11	91,179	77,341
Restricted Funds		304,620	318,193
Total Funds Carried Forward	11	395,799	395,534

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on:

And signed on their behalf by:

Trustee 

Statement of cash flows

Friends of St Nicholas Fields

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended: 31st March 2019

	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	265	6,543
Add: Depreciation for the year	3,011	1,004
Working capital changes		
(Increase)/decrease in stock	287	(1,819)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	15,168	(19,126)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	42,209	31,860
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	60,940	18,462
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	10,300	13,183
Disposal of fixed assets	(8,182)	-
	2,118	13,183
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	58,822	5,279
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2017	67,602	62,323
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2018	126,424	67,602

Notes to the accounts

Friends of St Nicholas Fields (Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Notes to the accounts for the year ended: 31st March 2019

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.

Friends of St Nicholas Fields (Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Notes to the accounts for the year ended:

31 March 2019

3 Income and endowments

	2019			2018		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2019	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2018
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3.1 Donations and legacies						
Donations	9,654	1,300	10,954	14,594	57	14,651
Gift Aid	56	-	56	149	-	149
Grants:						
CYC - Local Nature Reserve SLA	26,691	-	26,691	24,013	-	24,013
English Woodland Project	-	2,124	2,124	-	2,203	2,203
SNEC	-	-	-	-	37,244	37,244
Cobb Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	500	500
Brelms Trust	-	2,000	2,000	-	3,000	3,000
Derwenthorpe	-	-	-	-	4,963	4,963
Action towards inclusion	-	10,400	10,400	-	23,498	23,498
York Disaster Fund Flood Appeal	-	-	-	-	3,600	3,600
CYC Ward - Waste Busters	-	-	-	-	3,187	3,187
CYC Ward - Pond dipping	-	-	-	-	1,500	1,500
CYC Ward - Chipper/mower	-	-	-	-	1,667	1,667
TEWV	-	5,829	5,829	-	7,050	7,050
CYC fixit fund	-	-	-	-	2,243	2,243
Heritage Lottery	-	35,046	35,046	-	29,654	29,654
CYC Mind	-	4,525	4,525	-	9,050	9,050
Hungate Community Fund	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
Patsy Wood Trust	-	20,000	20,000	-	10,000	10,000
Youth Social Action Fund	-	2,430	2,430	-	2,430	2,430
TCV our wonderful wildlife	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
Postcode Local Trust	-	8,333	8,333	-	2,777	2,777
Jack Brunton Trust 2	-	1,000	1,000	-	500	500
Arlish & Chambers	-	-	-	-	200	200
Big Lottery	-	47,898	47,898	-	-	-
Hemplands	-	2,000	2,000	-	-	-

<i>Urban Becks</i>	-	12,500	12,500	-	-
<i>Purey Cust</i>	-	1,758	1,758	-	-
<i>Forgotten Corners</i>	-	6,200	6,200	-	-
<i>Garfield Weston</i>	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
<i>CYC - Fishergate Ward</i>	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
<i>Building Capabilities</i>	-	3,696	3,696	-	-
<i>Playspace</i>	-	1,895	1,895	-	-
<i>Grasslands Survey</i>	-	559	559	-	-
<i>Ninevah</i>	-	2,083	2,083	-	-
<i>LNP</i>	-	3,561	3,561	-	-
<i>Pollinarium</i>	-	2,500	2,500	-	-
<i>CYC - Heworth Ward</i>	-	671	671	-	-
<i>CYC - Micklegate Ward</i>	-	880	880	-	-
	36,401	185,188	221,589	38,756	148,323
					187,079

3.2 Charitable activities

Recycling scheme	11,281	93,751	105,032	12,987	91,068	104,055
	11,281	93,751	105,032	12,987	91,068	104,055

3.3 Other trading activities

Educational, lettings & rentals	415	1,000	1,415	2,930	-	2,930
Membership fees	1,499	-	1,499	2,101	-	2,101
Educational events	3,827	664	4,491	4,866	68	4,934
General sales	29,491	634	30,125	21,501	-	21,501
	35,232	2,298	37,530	31,398	68	31,466

3.4 Investments

Bank interest	20	-	20	2	-	2
	20	-	20	2	-	2

3.5 Other

Other sundry income	2,139	-	2,139	1,015	-	1,015
	2,139	-	2,139	1,015	-	1,015

Total income

	85,073	281,237	366,310	84,158	239,459	323,617
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4 Expenditure

4.1 Raising funds

Marketing & publicity costs	-	-	-	770	1,646	2,416
Purchases for resale	816	-	816	1,499	152	1,651
	816	-	816	2,269	1,798	4,067

4.2 Charitable activities

Salaries	53,206	199,186	252,392	38,129	189,608	227,737
Staff training & other costs	523	8,672	9,195	-	3,767	2,514
Volunteer training & other costs	1,343	857	2,200	236	1,957	2,193
Rent & rates	332	928	1,260	1,058	549	1,607
Utilities	634	1,113	1,747	74	1,674	1,748
Cleaning, repairs & renewals	1,456	10,522	11,978	2,941	7,324	10,265
Health and safety & security	1,206	1,119	2,325	436	1,029	1,465
Telephone	266	568	834	488	642	1,130
Postage & stationery	163	414	577	267	518	785
Insurance	2,276	5,264	7,540	2,566	4,651	7,217
Memberships & subscriptions	308	1,133	1,441	170	991	1,161
Professional fees	570	18,364	18,934	1,698	18,092	19,790
Resources & equipment	2,607	22,670	25,277	3,916	16,379	20,295
Marketing & Publicity	1,252	1,040	2,292	-	-	-
Event costs	1,675	1,256	2,931	1,235	1,062	2,297
Other project costs	869	16,768	17,637	669	8,464	9,133
Independent examiner's fee	720	-	720	680	-	680
Bank charges	110	89	199	50	59	109
Other sundry costs	745	1,578	2,323	523	1,354	1,877
Bad debts provision	416	-	416	-	-	-
Depreciation	163	2,848	3,011	105	899	1,004
	70,840	294,389	365,229	53,988	259,019	313,007

Total expenditure

	71,656	294,389	366,045	56,257	260,817	317,074
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5 Expenses & fees

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

5.1 Fees for examination of the accounts

	2019	2018
	£	£
Independent Examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	<u>720</u>	<u>680</u>

6 Staff costs and emoluments

6.1 Staff costs

	2019	2018
	£	£
Gross salaries	236,805	214,610
Employers National Insurance	12,737	11,828
Pension contributions	2,850	1,299
	<u>252,392</u>	<u>227,737</u>

6.2 Average number of full time equivalent employees by department

	2019	2018
Fundraising	1.8	2.0
Charitable activities	7.0	6.2
Governance	0.5	0.3
Other	1.4	1.0
Total	<u>10.7</u>	<u>9.5</u>

No employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000 (2018:Nil)

7 Fixed assets

2019	Leasehold Environment £	Office equipment £	General equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
7.1 Cost or valuation					
Balance b/fwd	324,111	8,863	61,702	6,823	401,499
Additions	-	-	10,300	-	10,300
Disposals	-	-	(8,182)	-	(8,182)
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	49,523	6,823	65,209
Charge for year	-	-	3,181	-	3,181
Disposals	-	-	(170)	-	(170)
Balance c/fwd	<u>-</u>	<u>8,863</u>	<u>52,534</u>	<u>6,823</u>	<u>68,220</u>
Net book value					
31 March 2019	<u>324,111</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,286</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>335,397</u>

2018	Leasehold Environment £	Office equipment £	General equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
Balance b/fwd	324,111	8,863	48,519	6,823	388,316
Additions	-	-	13,183	-	13,183
Balance c/fwd	<u>324,111</u>	<u>8,863</u>	<u>61,702</u>	<u>6,823</u>	<u>401,499</u>
Depreciation					
Balance b/fwd	-	8,863	48,519	6,823	64,205
Charge for year	-	-	1,004	-	1,004
Balance c/fwd	<u>-</u>	<u>8,863</u>	<u>49,523</u>	<u>6,823</u>	<u>65,209</u>
Net book value					
31 March 2018	<u>324,111</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,179</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>336,290</u>

8 Cash at bank and in hand

	2019 £	2018 £
Current bank account	50,435	42,964
CAF Cash account	54,592	2,097
CAF Gold account	20,021	20,002
Cashplus business debit card	235	213
PayPal account	125	-
Petty Cash	200	200
Other cash in hand	816	2,126
	<u>126,424</u>	<u>67,602</u>

9 Debtors and prepayments

	2019 £	2018 £
Debtors and prepayments		
Trade debtors	24,999	33,479
Other debtors	4,104	8,748
Bad debt provision	(416)	-
Prepayments and accrued income	5,404	7,032
Total	<u>34,091</u>	<u>49,259</u>

10 Creditors and accruals

	2019 £	2018 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	11,470	9,889
Accruals and deferred income	82,872	44,393
Tax and social security	7,454	5,305
Total	<u>101,796</u>	<u>59,587</u>

11 Movement of funds

11.1 Movement of major funds

2019 Fund name	Balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
Unrestricted funds (General)					
General unrestricted funds	77,341	85,073	71,656	421	91,179
	77,341	85,073	71,656	421	91,179
Restricted funds					
Environment Centre	302,299	-	-	-	302,299
Recycling Scheme	8,098	93,751	101,849	-	-
Grounds extension fund	2,475	-	2,475	-	-
SNEC	1,948	-	-	(1,948)	-
English Woodland project	(2,124)	2,124	-	-	-
York Open Eco Home	-	1,298	337	-	961
Brelms Trust	1,700	2,000	3,700	-	-
Building Fund	377	1,300	1,474	-	203
Action towards inclusion	3,082	10,400	13,576	94	-
Heritage Lottery	285	35,046	35,331	-	-
CYC Mind	(203)	4,525	4,322	-	-
Hungate Community Fund	159	1,000	1,159	-	-
Patsy Wood Trust	-	20,000	20,000	-	-
Youth Social Action Fund	(70)	2,430	2,360	-	-
TCV our wonderful wildlife	871	-	871	-	-
Postcode Local Trust	(704)	8,333	7,629	-	-
Jack Brunton Trust 2	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
Hempland	-	2,000	2,030	30	-
York Urban Becks	-	12,500	12,500	-	-
Grassland Survey	-	559	559	-	-
Building Capabilities	-	3,696	2,623	-	1,073
Nineveh	-	2,083	2,083	-	-
Big Lottery Fund 2	-	47,898	47,898	-	-
TEWV 2	-	5,829	7,216	1,387	-
Purey Cust Nordik Walking	-	1,758	1,758	-	-
Garfield Weston	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
LNP- Foss Monotoring	-	3,561	3,577	16	-
Playspace- Nature Explorers	-	1,895	1,895	-	-
Pollinarium	-	2,500	2,416	-	84
Forgotten Corners	-	6,200	6,200	-	-
CYC Heworth Ward	-	671	671	-	-
CYC Micklegate Ward	-	880	880	-	-
CYC Fishergate Ward	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
	318,193	281,237	294,389	(421)	304,620
Total Funds	395,534	366,310	366,045	-	395,799

2018 Fund name	Balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
Unrestricted funds (General)					
General unrestricted funds	49,886	84,158	56,257	(446)	77,341
	49,886	84,158	56,257	(446)	77,341
Restricted funds					
Environment Centre	302,299	-	-	-	302,299
Recycling Scheme	-	91,068	82,970	-	8,098
Facility improvements	3,976	-	3,976	-	-
Grounds extension fund	2,675	-	200	-	2,475
SNEC	2,825	37,244	38,121	-	1,948
English Woodland project	1,269	2,203	5,596	-	(2,124)
York Open Eco Home	493	17	700	190	-
Wetland Meadow	639	-	639	-	-
Cobb Charitable Trust	-	500	500	-	-
Postcode Local Trust	6,653	-	6,653	-	-
Brelms Trust	759	3,000	2,059	-	1,700
Purey Cust	1,426	-	1,426	-	-
Jack Brunton Trust	500	-	500	-	-
Orchard Windfalls	(256)	-	-	256	-
Building Fund	1,131	40	794	-	377
D'Oyly Carte	1,800	-	1,800	-	-
Big Lottery - Autumn Fayre	2,703	68	2,771	-	-
CYC Improving Communities	1,346	-	212	(1,134)	-
Derwenthorpe	(579)	4,963	4,384	-	-
Action towards inclusion	3,958	23,498	24,374	-	3,082
Martin Wills Maintenance Trust	2,000	-	2,000	-	-
York Disaster Fund Flood Appeal	3,600	3,600	7,200	-	-
CYC Ward - Waste Busters	-	3,187	3,187	-	-
CYC Ward - Pond dipping	-	1,500	1,500	-	-
CYC Ward - Chipper/mower	-	1,667	1,667	-	-
TEWV	(112)	7,050	6,938	-	-
CYC fixit fund	-	2,243	2,243	-	-
Heritage Lottery	-	29,654	29,369	-	285
CYC Mind	-	9,050	9,253	-	(203)
Summer 2017 Nature Explorers	-	-	1,134	1,134	-
Hungate Community Fund	-	1,000	841	-	159
Patsy Wood Trust	-	10,000	10,000	-	-
Youth Social Action Fund	-	2,430	2,500	-	(70)
TCV our wonderful wildlife	-	2,000	1,129	-	871
Postcode Local Trust	-	2,777	3,481	-	(704)
Jack Brunton Trust 2	-	500	500	-	-
Arlish & Chambers	-	200	200	-	-
	339,105	239,459	260,817	446	318,193
Total Funds	388,991	323,617	317,074	-	395,534

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

Grounds extension fund

A fund held towards extending the facilities of the centre.

SNEC

Eco-therapy project for mentally ill recoverees

English Woodland project

Funding to enable a review of the management plan for the nature reserve.

York Open Eco Home

Funding to showcase living demonstrations of energy saving methods in the home.

Brelms Trust

To help fund Nature Reserve manager leading volunteers in conservation.

Building Fund

To help with repairs to the Environment Centre building.

Action towards inclusion

Building better opportunities - to help find employment.

Heritage Lottery

To improve grassland sites through better management.

CYC Mind

To provide “green exercise” in support of eco-therapy for good mental health.

Hungate Community Fund

To support our eco-crafters group which helps combat social isolation and loneliness in older people through weekly arts and crafts sessions.

Patsy Wood Trust

Contribution to our core costs (for a 3 year period)

Youth Social Action Fund

Develop engagement/volunteering by students from York universities and colleges.

TCV our wonderful wildlife

A series of workshops to engage local community in nature and its conservation.

Postcode Local Trust

To give volunteers the knowledge and skills to further develop the community woodland from landfill to wildlife haven.

Jack Brunton Trust 2

To support the volunteer programme.

Hempland

Habitat improvements to the Hemplands area of Tang Hall beck.

York Urban Becks

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

Grassland Survey

National Lottery Heritage fund small grant to test and launch an urban grassland quality survey pack in York.

Building Capabilities

To support improving the organisation’s skills and knowledge.

Nineveh

To encourage local community engagement along York becks.

Big Lottery Fund 2

TEWV 2

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

Purey Cust Nordik Walking

To provide Nordic walking as part of our eco-therapy programme

Garfield Weston

Contribution towards core costs and for match funding the Big Give Christmas challenge appeal.

LNP- Foss Monotoring

Species monitoring on the River Foss.

Playspace- Nature Explorers

Children’s summer nature activities.

Pollinarium

Act as custodian and co-ordinator of the Pollinarium plant pavilion along with summer programme at York Museums Trust Artist garden.

Forgotten Corners

Improving the small woodland area near Millennium bridge.

CYC Heworth Ward

A range of engagement sessions at Heworth Holme green space and the purchase of a secure tool store to help develop sustainability of the project.

CYC Micklegate Ward

To increase the community involvement in Scarcroft orchard

CYC Fishergate Ward

A range of engagement sessions at Millennium Fields meadow and the purchase of a secure tool store to help develop sustainability of the project.

Facility improvements

A fund held towards the replacement and improvement of facilities and equipment.

York Open Eco Home

Funding to showcase living demonstrations of energy saving methods in the home.

Wetland Meadow

Crowd funding project to create wetland meadow in St. Nick’s Nature Reserve.

Cobb Charitable Trust

To help fund volunteer coordinator

Orchard Windfalls

To help fund orchard planting project.

D'Oyly Carte

To support our volunteer programme.

Big Lottery - Autumn Fayre

In support of our annual autumn fayre.

CYC Improving Communities

Children’s activity sessions during summer holidays

Derwenthorpe

Wildlife monitoring and recording project at Derwenthorpe.

Martin Wills Maintenance Trust

To support our volunteer programme.

York Disaster Fund Flood Appeal

To research/plan to mitigate future floods.

CYC Ward - Waste Busters

To improve recycling rates and reuse in the Micklegate Ward

CYC Ward - Pond dipping

To repair our pond and surrounds.

CYC Ward - Chipper/mower

To purchase a woodchipper and lawnmower to help manage the nature reserve and children’s play area

CYC fixit fund

Workshops to encourage reuse/repair of items

Summer 2017 Nature Explorers

Engaging children with nature through outdoor activities

Hungate Community Fund

To support our ecocrafters group which helps combat social isolation and loneliness in older people through weekly arts & crafts sessions

TCV our wonderful wildlife

A series of workshops to engage local community in nature and its conservation

Arlish & Chambers

To support the volunteer programme

12 Net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2019
	£	£	£
Balances at 31st March 2019			
Fixed assets	33,098	302,299	335,397
Current assets	159,877	2,321	162,198
Current liabilities	(101,796)	-	(101,796)
	91,179	304,620	395,799

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2018
	£	£	£
Balances at 31st March 2018			
Fixed assets	33,991	302,299	336,290
Current assets	102,937	15,894	118,831
Current liabilities	(59,587)	-	(59,587)
	77,341	318,193	395,534



Meadow Cranesbill



Ceilidh, by Lewis Outing

WILDWATCHING

AT ST NICKS

THERE'S NOTHING

^{too tiny}
NOTHING TOO TALL
TREES, BEES,
BIRDS, ALL ARE
PART OF THE STORY
WITH
SECRETS
TO SHARE
TAKE THE
TIME
TO STAND
& STARE.

BY Anneliese Emmans Dean



Local artist Stephen Hodgkins kindly lent us his manual print press to create a limited edition of Anneliese's poem prints and play with at Autumn Fayre – a fun experience for all who had a go.