

Annual report 2016-2017



Photos by Lewis Outing

enjoy nature

get inspired

make a difference



Blossom & Long-tailed Tit, photos by Lewis Outing

Trustees' Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2017



Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

outsource

Outsource: Charity accounts preparation
& independent examination service

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Contents

Annual Report of the Trustees	p.5
Achievements and Performance	p.5
Objectives and Activities	p.7
St Nicks' Ambition	p.9
Impact and Value	p.11
Structure, Governance and Management	p.23
Independent Examiner's Report	p.27
Statement of Financial Activities	p.28
Balance Sheet	p.29
Statement of Cash Flows	p.30
Notes to the Accounts	p.31





Achievements and performance

Message from the Chair

As Chair of the Trustees since March 2017, I have the great pleasure of reporting the achievements of another fantastic year for the charity. We have made a real impact across York: increasing biodiversity and improving habitat management, waste reduction and recycling within the city, and improving mental and physical wellbeing.

Having been a fan of St Nicks ever since I planted some trees in the John Lally Wood over 15 years ago, I am delighted to see the huge difference volunteers and staff have made to this former landfill site. It is wonderful to see such a biodiverse nature reserve with over 600 species reported this year. It is worth noting the real growth and achievement of St Nicks working across the city delivering our projects and building stronger relationships with a growing range of partners. A good example is our growing involvement with the work of Buglife to improve the urban habitat for pollinators – many others are outlined in the report.

I would like to pay tribute to the great work of my predecessor, Vicky Kindemba (pictured on previous page) and the great skill and dedication she gave us, not only in steering the Board of Trustees but also her special expertise in consolidating the St Nicks Nature Reserve and in promoting broader wildlife and biodiversity opportunities. We are delighted she has gone on to new opportunities in the conservation world and wish her every success there.

I am also very grateful to my fellow trustees, staff, volunteers and patrons for their wide range of expertise, experience and enthusiasm, which makes them such a delight to work with.

This report highlights our main achievements towards our five strategic impacts during the past year and gives a glimpse of some of our plans for the future.

Adrian Lovett





Bullfinch, by Lewis Outing

Objectives and activities

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.

Our main activities include maintenance of the 24 acre nature reserve, development of the environmental education programme, a zero emissions kerbside recycling collection service, ecotherapy and development of the Environment centre as a source of inspiration for sustainable living. We support a growing membership network in addition to local businesses, community organisations and members of the public.

The trustees consider that they have complied with their duties to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.



St Nicks' Ambition

Since 2015 St Nicks has adopted One Planet Living principles. The context for this is that the sustainable level for an individual's ecological footprint is 1.8 global hectares (4.4 acres). The average UK resident's ecological footprint is 5.6 hectares (13.8 acres), and York is no exception.

At three times the sustainable level, this over-consumption of natural resources cannot continue without serious negative effects on the ability of our planet to renew and sustain life. In our service-based economy, the day-to-day consumption decisions of York residents, businesses and visitors all help to drive the demand for services and manufactured goods. This in turn increases individuals' carbon footprints and contributes to the overall impact on the environment. Although the simple practices of daily life may seem harmless and insignificant, the effects of wasteful habits add up. This cumulative effect has a significant impact on the sustainability of wildlife and on the environment, from a local to an international scale.

Strategic impacts

To help York address these issues, St Nicks has chosen to focus initially on five strategic impacts linked to the One Planet 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) **Local & Sustainable Food:** Increase access to and use of local, seasonal and organic produce by the residents of and visitors to York
- 4) **Land use & Wildlife:** Increase access to wild spaces and biodiversity in York
- 5) **Health & Well-being:** Increase the number of York residents leading happy and healthy lives

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

Sustainability: conducting all activities in a way that is not harmful to the environment.

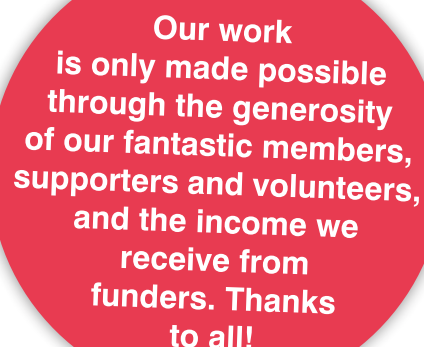
Inclusivity: providing a safe and friendly environment for all staff, volunteers and audiences participating in all events and projects

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 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!



York Open Eco Homes at Native Architects, by L. Outing



10 ^(NEW)
Sam Taylor, Recycling Coordinator, St Nicks: A local hero who's inspiring people to change their behaviour - she's challenging everyone to up their game on recycling, whatever their starting point.

9 ^(NEW)
Joan Marc Simon, Director, Zero Waste Europe: He knows how a new economy model could empower cities and communities to live according to the resources we have. Inspiring policy makers and communities to move towards zero waste.

8 ⁽¹⁸⁾
Shlomo Downen, National Coordinator, UK Without Incineration Network: Shlomo works tirelessly helping groups around the country



Recycling team won TerraCycle's competition by collecting the most plastic trigger heads

Impact and Value

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, delivery of a zero emissions kerbside recycling scheme, Ecotherapy, development of the environmental education programme and development of St Nicks 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.

The following sections highlight our main achievements towards the five strategic impacts during the past year:

1) Zero Carbon

We have replaced our old petrol lawnmower with a battery powered one, which is recharged using renewable energy. This will allow our play area and Centre garden management to be more environmentally and financially sustainable in the future.

We encourage all visitors to come on foot, by bike or by public transport.

The transport for our household and business waste recycling scheme is provided by load bearing tricycle (powered by legs) and an electric vehicle recharged using renewable energy.

We held the second York Open Eco Homes event in May, which enabled over 150 people to visit living demonstrations of energy saving measures, learn from their experiences and share theirs. This time an architects' studio and eco holiday home opened their doors to visitors alongside nine other homes.

2) Zero Waste

This year has been a very exciting one for our Recycling Scheme. We have seen continued growth in our business waste recycling scheme as well as securing a 5 year contract with the City of York Council, from April 2017, for our residential recycling collection service.

Our award-winning zero-carbon emission recycling scheme is run by a small dedicated team and provides kerbside recycling to 2,500 households within York city walls.

Securing a Top 10 position in the Resource Magazine's Hot 100 list of waste influencers was a very proud moment for Sam Taylor, our Recycling Co-ordinator.

Using an electric vehicle, human powered load bearing tricycles and a hand winch, the team has diverted 210 tonnes of waste from landfill, an increase from last year by the weight of a TRex! (9 tonnes).

St Nicks' business waste recycling scheme has grown well over the year collecting 66 tonnes of recycling from 75 businesses, including some large organisations such as York Museum Trust and Wagamama. This has more than quadrupled the waste diverted from landfill compared with the previous year.

Recycling the waste from events has continued to grow, with customers such as CAMRA Beer Festival and York Cycle Rally increasing the volume and range of materials they recycle through our scheme.

Both our residential recycling and business waste recycling scheme users are able to recycle materials not normally recycled at the kerbside such as foil, drinks cartons, pens, coffee packaging and biscuit wrappers through our arrangements with Terracycle.



Water vole, by Ian Traynor



Hedgehog



Visiting otter's poo



Bat Night Aug. 2016, by L. Outing



House Sparrow



Bullfinch male, by Ian Traynor



Song Thrush, by Ian Traynor



Blood Vein Moth, by Cliff Wilton



Cinnabar Moth caterpillars



Dot Moth caterpillar, by Cliff Wilton



Rosy Rustic Moth, by Cliff Wilton



Shaded Broadbar Moth, by C. Wilton



Yellow Rattle



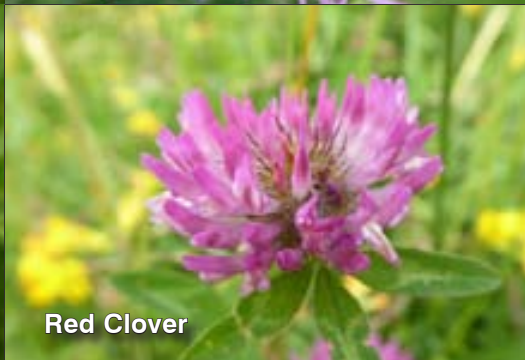
Common Knapweed



Ox-eye Daisy



Meadow Vetchling



Red Clover



Birds-foot Trefoil

3) Local & Sustainable Food

We helped people to learn the principles of organic gardening and the benefits of eating seasonally through our allotment and gardening groups.

Over 350 people attended our biggest annual event, the Autumn Fayre, which celebrates harvest season by showcasing the produce of our Local Nature Reserve and surrounding green spaces.



4) Land use & Wildlife

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.

This year we have created and managed habitats for 21 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
- moths: Blood Vein Moth, Cinnabar Moth, Dot Moth, Rosy Rustic Moth, Shaded Broadbar Moth
- plants: Yellow Rattle, Common Knapweed, Ox-eye Daisy, Meadow Vetchling, Birds-foot Trefoil, Red Clover

Our fantastic conservation volunteers and visiting groups have helped us plant 1,200 wildflowers; sow 10kg of wildflower seed mixes in woodlands, wetland, meadows and grasslands; plant 40 metres of native species-rich hedgerows and lay 50 metres of hedgerow.

We have been very successful in growing targeted wildflower species from seed collected off the Nature Reserve and the resulting seedlings are currently being planted onto the Nature Reserve.

The Wildwatch Group meet every Wednesday morning come rain or shine. Despite their varied interests and levels of expertise, they managed to identify 613 species on the nature reserve to date.





Bearing Fruit group pruning an apple tree



Tang Hall Beck, by Lewis Outing



Wildflower sowing at the Millenium Bridge



Scything at St Nicks, by Lewis Outing



Derwenthorpe pond



Volunteers at Heworth Holme



Wildlife highlights for the year are: multiple signs of otter, an over-wintering Water-Rail, Dark Green Fritillary Butterfly, Banded Demoiselle Damselfly for the second year running, Scarlet Pimpernel, and successful spreading of Yellow Rattle. But as one of the Wildwatch volunteers has pointed out, perhaps the real highlight is the paradise for pollinators and bullfinches!

Species identified so far include:

162 herbaceous plants / smaller shrubs; 42 trees / larger shrubs; 51 birds; 39 assorted bugs and leafhoppers; 39 bees, wasps and sawflies; 39 other invertebrates, arachnids, arthropods etc.; 38 hoverflies; 38 other flies; 32 beetles; 30 fungi; 20 mosses and liverworts; 22 moths; 9 damsel/dragonflies; 19 butterflies; 15 grasses; 9 mammals; 5 lichens; 2 amphibians;

1 grasshopper and 1 earwig.

Biodiversity monitoring of the Nature Reserve has been improved through increased training and more joined-up work with our Wildwatch group, St Nicks Volunteer Rangers and staff.

Bearing Fruit ecotherapy group continue to manage and develop the community orchard on the Nature Reserve. A further 18 fruit trees were planted over the winter.

Approx. 30% of mature apple trees and all the young trees received pruning this year. 50% were deliberately left as wild which creates fantastic standing deadwood.

Traditional woodland skills workshops, which this year had a greater emphasis on the theory and science as well as on the skills, have been very successful.

This year, as well as all the work we have done on St Nicks Nature Reserve, we have also been embarking on more off-site green space management works across York. Key achievements have been:

York Becks catchment-wide project funding has been secured through being chosen as one of the Lord Mayor's Charities of the Year and Two Ridings Community Foundation York Flood Fund Appeal. Our ongoing York Becks project aims to control and eradicate invasive species, clean up the becks, monitor habitats and species, monitor water quality and improve biodiversity of the York Becks.

We developed a successful partnership with Buglife's Urban Buzz project as their go-to contractor for creating meadows, providing management advice and training.

As the Scything Association of Britain and Ireland's north-east hub, our low impact land management techniques have increased in popularity with 56 people from across Yorkshire being taught to scythe and 18 enjoying scything taster sessions and participating in courses.

We have formed a stronger relationship with the new Derwenthorpe housing development and their residents through our work on the Greenway. This led to us being asked to bid, successfully, for JRHT community funding to create a Wildwatch project at the Derwenthorpe site.

Heworth Holme restoration project, funded by Postcode Local Trust, has successfully improved 5 acres of wet grassland through planting, sowing and improved management. Work continues to introduce an accessible limestone footpath.





Inside our Ecotherapy chalet



Session leader Freya picking apples with Rob



Bearing Fruit group

"I leave Stockton Hall, walk out of the car park, hop on a bus, walk a mile or so and spend 2-2.5 hours with people who are sharing the same collective experience. We all focus on conservation and take time to notice the nature around us...

I didn't realise how shut off I had become from the natural world. You don't have to be an expert or anything or do anything other than give yourself a bit of space to notice things. I always feel so much better after sessions...

Everyone was so accepting of where individuals are in their own recovery. I never felt any pressure. The workers and volunteers at St Nicks were enthusiastic and supportive and the work helped me to develop as a human being."

An Ecotherapy beneficiary, referred to us from the medium secure forensic hospital in Stockton Hall



A visiting Waxwing - spotted first by Ecotherapy group



Eco-Crafters Club

5) Health & Wellbeing

Our Ecotherapy Programme has continued to raise the mental and physical wellbeing of beneficiaries experiencing mental ill health, through building a connection with nature.

The project has, for the second year running, vastly exceeded expectations with a total of 122 referrals in the year compared to an expected 60.

Over 90% of beneficiaries have reported marked improvements in their overall mental and physical wellbeing.

We have also developed connections for Ecotherapy participants to move from our own ecotherapy services onto the wider green network within York.

The Ecotherapy project has engaged with Psychiatric Forensic Units within the city, opening up opportunities for a cohort of people often excluded from secondary mental health provision.

The second year of the project saw the development of a strong partnership with York St John University and Converge/Discovery Hub whereby, as part of their role, one qualified Occupational Therapist and one Associate Practitioner offered up their skills to work at St Nicks on the Ecotherapy Programme. They now facilitate two different Ecotherapy groups which have become an integral part of the Programme.

We ran a pilot gardening group at a residential unit in York (22 The Avenue) to bridge the gap from intensive mental health interventions into the community upon discharge. The pilot was successful and highlighted the need for investment. As a result, we applied, successfully, to the TEWW Innovation Fund Initiative to expand the pilot.

We continued to build our partnerships with the Blueberry Academy (which provides opportunities for disabled adults) as well as hosting volunteers and placements referred by The Dexters Care Home, Graver's Care Home, Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust, Jobcentre Plus, Askham Grange Prison and UBU.

Our Eco-Crafters group has engaged older people in creative activities and workshops to help decrease loneliness and isolation. Beneficiaries have learned and shared skills in creating upcycled crafts.





Not even an April hail storm stopped our volunteer working on our new wetland meadow!



Student volunteers planting an apple tree



Lord Mayor's inauguration



Making bird feeders as part of summer holiday activities



Visiting Glasgow University students had a tour and helped sow wildflowers, too!

St Nicks
The Green Heart of York

Centre for nature and green living

Enjoy nature | Get inspired | Make a difference

Home / Blog / Plastic Myths Busted!

Plastic Myths Busted!

After getting tonnes of questions, our Recycling Coordinator Sam Taylor wrote a blog in the hope of clearing up some of the confusion around plastics...

Aren't all plastics recyclable? How do you make a plastic anyway? Why will you recycle a plastic bottle but not a yoghurt pot? Well, read on to find out the answers, I'm happy to discuss all of this in more depth so drop me a comment or email me at recycling@stnicks.org.uk

Sorry if we get a bit technical in parts, but we'll try our best to keep this as jargon free as possible!

I can hear you shouting "Surely if it is made of plastic

Just a few Crisle 1s and 2s. Read on to find out what this means...

Supporting our impacts

Our small team of staff are supported in their work by our fantastic volunteering programme, which encourages York residents to undertake practical conservation activities, flora and fauna identification run by our weekly Wildwatch group and assist with events. As well as with maintaining the nature reserve and the Environment Centre. events and education sessions, volunteers have also helped us to engage the public with our charity's mission.

Last year 304 volunteers helped to manage and develop habitats on the nature reserve, run events and raise both awareness and funds.

Together volunteers donated a total of 7,800 hours, which is the equivalent of paying 4 full time staff.

Our Student Action Volunteering scheme continues to grow and be very successful with student volunteers donating 226 hours of time helping with conservation and wildlife monitoring.

We engaged more than 4,000 people in our events and through joint events for the Lord Mayor's Charities of the year work throughout the year (St Nicks, York Racial Equality Network, York LGBT and York Civic Trust). Thanks to these joint efforts we have reached audiences we haven't reached before and taken part in events in which we wouldn't normally be involved.

More than 250 children from 13 schools and clubs have benefited from our sustainability education sessions, gathering positive feedback such as "what a fantastic place you have hidden away over there!"

Thanks to a grant from Shine we also engaged 111 children in connecting with nature through a range of educational and fun activities during the summer holidays: "We came back because we loved it so much."

Over 250 people from 7 universities and interest groups, including Locality National Conference delegates, took part in sustainability talks and tours of St Nicks Local Nature Reserve.

Schools and higher education establishments across York continue to look to St Nicks to provide placements for students. In the last year we worked with Askham Bryan College, Bishop Burton College, York College, Bootham School, Archbishop Holgate School and more.

Communications

This year we formed a Communications ('comms') team to make better use of the online communication platforms available to us. Since its formation in August 2016, our online presence and levels of engagement with the wider public and other organisations have increased dramatically.

We use a wide variety of ways to communicate with all of our stakeholders, utilising our own channels and teaming up with other organisations. This year as well as sending our monthly update to over 1,045 associate members we have posted frequently on our Facebook page, Twitter feed, instagram and blogs on our website. We have focused on particular topics and campaigns for St Nicks, such as #FixStNicks and reducing plastics use. All areas have seen a gradual increase in viewers or subscribers: the outcomes are shown in the table above.

The 'comms team' has also managed to raise the profile of our blogs, by creating a diverse range of content giving fair and even coverage to all projects. We have been able to post more often.

Wildwatch and Spotlight On in particular have benefited from promotion across our social media platforms. Readership of these blogs was regularly around 100 but now often exceeds 300. Our most popular blog by far has been an explanation of the different types of plastic and why some are recyclable whilst most are not. Since it was posted it has been read over 1200 times (mid- February – end March).

	March '17
Twitter:	
Followers	1,748
Engagements / month	1,100
Reach / month	30,000
Facebook:	
Engagements / month	800
Likes	1,098
Reach / month	4,000



OnePlanetYork 

St Nicks is a founding member of One Planet York, which we helped launch in spring 2016. It is a growing network of organisations working to build a thriving local economy, strong community and a healthy environment while addressing the fact that the UK is currently consuming the resources of three planets when we only have one. Our joint aim is a city where residents are healthy, happy and prosperous.

Finance & Funding

Recent fundraising efforts have been successful, for example securing £8,000 towards our #FixStNicks fund, as well as unrestricted funds from membership subscriptions, legacies and donations.

The Lord Mayor's Charity of the year was a valuable fundraiser and has secured £10,000 for St Nicks in the coming financial year.

We recently won funding for the coming year from the Heritage Lottery Fund for teaching 15 organisations across York about sustainable grassland management and engaging them in the project.

We also continue to receive valued support from the City of York Council through SLAs for aspects of the Nature Reserve and for the Residential Recycling Scheme.

Some of our ambitions for 2017-2018

- Continue to develop joint working, undertake more training and share skills with other organisations, our Wildwatch group, St Nicks Volunteer Rangers and St Nicks staff;
- Continue to 'green up' Heworth Holme as part of our wider York Becks project;
- As part of the York Becks catchment wide project, produce management/action plans for native planting schemes and recruit and train local volunteers;
- Explore and develop projects to improve natural flood management and increased biodiversity in the area around St Nicks;
- Expand the #FixStNicks campaign to upgrade the sustainability features of the Environment Centre so we may continue to be an example and inspiration for green living;
- Develop a wider One Planet Living project working with more organisations in York and surrounding area.



St Nicks' patron Anneliese Emmans Dean who runs the Big Buzz, which promotes sustainability through creativity, and learning through laughter, rhythm and rhyme. She has supported us since 2007.



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*.

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
Vicki Kindemba Conservation delivery manager	Chair	until end of Feb 2017
Adrian Lovett Retired NHS Manager	Chair	from March 2017
Alison Green Retired teacher	Secretary Vice Chair	until end of Feb 2017 from March 2017
Ed Mawdsley Local small business owner	Treasurer	
Mark Bates Business development manager		
Pat Hearn Service user		
Lars Kramm Local councillor		
Andrea Marandino Sustainable finance risk manager		
Judith Rigg Retired head teacher		
Jane Thurlow Retired mental health service manager		

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 VSCE Support CIC 29 Millfield Road, York YO23 1NH

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, Sustrans, Buglife, Converge and the Discovery Hub both 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!

Financial review

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

The charity has maintained its strong position as at the close of the previous financial year (2015/16) and expects to push on significantly in the new year (2017/18)

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 the free reserves, at a level which equates to approximately 6 months unrestricted expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to cover management, administration and support costs. Unrestricted funds were maintained at or below this level throughout the year.

Amount of reserves held

£388,991 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 and has prior year Trustee Report and Accounts available for inspection should interested parties wish to do so.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature	Adrian Lovett
Full Name	ADRIAN LOVETT
Position	CHAIR
Date	7/7/2017



A pond dipper examining her catch during an October event kindly put on by the local author of Tomtes books and then Sheriff's lady Brenda Tyler, photo by Lewis 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 2017

which are set out on pages 29-40

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

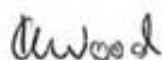
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:
to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

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



Karen Wood ACMA, CGMA
Community Accountant
Outsource
29 Millfield Road
York YO23 1NH

Date: 10/10/2017

Statement of financial activities

Friends of St Nicholas Fields (Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended: 31 March 2017

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3.1	111,142	85,940	197,082	120,521
Charitable activities	3.2	9,959	-	9,959	81,635
Other trading activities	3.3	31,767	231	31,998	38,364
Investments	3.4	26	-	26	48
Other	3.5	582	-	582	747
Total income	3	153,476	86,171	239,647	241,315
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4.1	1,047	442	1,489	2,608
Charitable activities	4.2	147,192	90,371	237,563	233,132
Total expenditure	4	148,239	90,813	239,052	235,740
Net income/(expenditure)		5,237	- 4,642	595	5,575
Gross transfers between funds		10,344	(10,344)	-	-
Net movement in funds		15,581	(14,986)	595	5,575
Total funds brought forward		34,307	354,089	388,396	382,821
Total funds carried forward		49,888	339,103	388,991	388,396

Balance sheet

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Balance Sheet as at: **31st March 2017**

	Note	2017 £	2016 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	7	324,111	324,111
Total fixed assets		<u>324,111</u>	<u>324,111</u>
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	8	62,323	45,161
Debtors & prepayments	9	30,133	27,508
Stock		151	62
Total current assets		<u>92,607</u>	<u>72,731</u>
Current liabilities: amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors and accruals	10	(27,727)	(8,446)
Net current assets		<u>64,880</u>	<u>64,285</u>
Net Assets		<u>388,991</u>	<u>388,396</u>
Funds of the Charity	11		
Unrestricted Funds (General)		49,888	34,307
Restricted Funds		339,103	354,089
Total Funds Carried Forward	11	<u>388,991</u>	<u>388,396</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on:

7/7/2017

And signed on their behalf by:

Adrian Fenett

Trustee

Statement of cash flows

Friends of St Nicholas Fields

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended:

31st March 2017

	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	595	5,575
Add: Depreciation for the year		
Working capital changes		
(Increase)/decrease in stock	(89)	(62)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(2,625)	2,929
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	19,281	(1,390)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	17,162	7,052
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	17,162	7,052
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2016	45,161	38,109
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2017	62,323	45,161

Notes to the accounts

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Notes to the accounts for the year ended:

31st March 2017

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 that the asset will appreciate in value rather than depreciate.

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 2017

3 Income and endowments	2017			2016		
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2017 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2016 £
3.1 Donations and legacies						
Donations	13,091	2,033	15,124	3,113	5	3,118
Grants:						
CYC - Local Nature Reserve SLA	23,008	-	23,008	23,008		23,008
Forestry Commission project	-	-	-	544	4,898	5,442
Worm zone project	-	1,649	1,649	-	16,723	16,723
Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
North of England Hort Soc	-	-	-	-	500	500
Grow Wild Youth	-	500	500	-	500	500
York Urban Becks	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	-	-	-	2,000	-	2,000
Charles Hayward Foundation	-	-	-	2,000	-	2,000
York Open Eco Home	-	500	500	-	1,902	1,902
En Able	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
SITA Water voles	-	-	-	-	7,659	7,659
SNEC	3,343	32,936	36,279	3,343	48,326	51,669
Cobb Charitable Trust	-	500	500	-	-	-
Postcode Local Trust	-	17,180	17,180	-	-	-
Shine	-	900	900	-	-	-
Brelms Trust	-	3,000	3,000	-	-	-
John Lewis Foundation	-	1,200	1,200	-	-	-
Purey Cust	-	2,530	2,530	-	-	-
P & D Shepherd Charitable Trust	-	250	250	-	-	-
Jack Brunton Trust	-	500	500	-	-	-
Persimmon	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Arlish & Chambers	-	500	500	-	-	-
D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust(2)	-	2,000	2,000	-	-	-
Big Lottery -Autumn Fayre	-	2,703	2,703	-	-	-
CYC -Improving Communities	-	1,346	1,346	-	-	-
Woodroffe Benton	-	500	500	-	-	-
Action towards inclusion	-	7,613	7,613	-	-	-
Martin Wills Maintenance Trust	-	2,000	2,000	-	-	-
York Disaster Fund Flood Appeal	-	3,600	3,600	-	-	-
CYC Ward -Pond dipping	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
	39,442	85,940	125,382	34,008	86,513	120,521
3.2 Charitable activities						
Recycling scheme	9,959	71,700	81,659	9,935	71,700	81,635
	9,959	71,700	81,659	9,935	71,700	81,635
3.3 Other trading activities						
Educational, lettings & rentals	879	-	879	932	-	932
Membership fees	2,001	-	2,001	2,724	-	2,724
Fundraising income	-	-	-	4,338	176	4,514
Educational events	6,678	231	6,909	2,619	-	2,619
General sales	22,209	-	22,209	21,211	20	21,231
Recycling	-	-	-	6,344	-	6,344
	31,767	231	31,998	38,168	196	38,364
3.4 Investments						
Bank interest	26	-	26	48	-	48
	26	-	26	48	-	48
3.5 Other						
Other sundry income	582	-	582	669	78	747
	582	-	582	669	78	747
Total income	81,776	157,871	239,647	82,828	158,487	241,315

4 Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2017 £	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2016 £
4.1 Raising funds						
Marketing & publicity costs	271	474	745	1,227	358	1,585
Purchases for resale	744	-	744	1,023	-	1,023
			-			-
	1,015	474	1,489	2,250	358	2,608
4.2 Charitable activities						
Salaries	57,298	133,543	190,841	74,909	119,060	193,969
Staff training & other costs	1,280	4,015	5,295	467	865	1,332
Volunteer training & other costs	461	1,919	2,380	544	1,344	1,888
Rent & rates	636	769	1,405	(491)	2,300	1,809
Utilities	679	477	1,156	857	350	1,207
Cleaning, repairs & renewals	694	3,312	4,006	722	1,042	1,764
Health and safety & security	668	768	1,436	1,430	447	1,877
Telephone	469	323	792	638	-	638
Postage & stationery	323	327	650	252	365	617
Insurance	3,373	3,041	6,414	6,064	647	6,711
Memberships & subscriptions	113	109	222	318	30	348
Professional fees	55	3,010	3,065	100	61	161
Resources & equipment	7,121	1,981	9,102	2,687	2,288	4,975
Event costs	1,243	393	1,636	1,238	92	1,330
Other project costs	-	6,976	6,976	36	12,543	12,579
Independent examiner's fee	680	-	680	650	-	650
Bank charges	218	-	218	89	-	89
Other sundry costs	216	1,073	1,289	277	911	1,188
			-			-
	75,527	162,036	237,563	90,787	142,345	233,132
Total expenditure	76,542	162,510	239,052	93,037	142,703	235,740

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

	2017 £	2016 £
Independent Examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	680	650

6 Staff costs and emoluments

6.1 Staff costs

	2017 £	2016 £
Gross salaries	181,859	184,623
Employers National Insurance	7,974	9,346
Pension contributions	1,008	-
	190,841	193,969

6.2 Average number of full time equivalent employees by department

	2017	2016
Fundraising	1.8	1.8
Charitable activities	5.7	5.7
Governance	0.3	0.3
Other	1.2	1.2
Total	9	9

No employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000 (2015:Nil)

7 Fixed assets

2017	Leasehold Environment £	Office equipment £	General equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
7.1 Cost or valuation					
Balance b/fwd	324,111	8,863	48,519	6,823	388,316
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	0	-	-
Balance c/fwd	<u>324,111</u>	<u>8,863</u>	<u>48,519</u>	<u>6,823</u>	<u>388,316</u>
Depreciation					
Balance b/fwd	-	8,863	48,519	6,823	64,205
Charge for year	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance c/fwd	<u>-</u>	<u>8,863</u>	<u>48,519</u>	<u>6,823</u>	<u>64,205</u>
Net book value					
31 March 2017	<u>324,111</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>324,111</u>
2016	Leasehold Environment £	Office equipment £	General equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
Balance b/fwd	324,111	8,863	64,519	6,823	404,316
Balance c/fwd	<u>324,111</u>	<u>8,863</u>	<u>64,519</u>	<u>6,823</u>	<u>404,316</u>
Depreciation					
Balance b/fwd	-	8,863	64,519	6,823	80,205
Balance c/fwd	<u>-</u>	<u>8,863</u>	<u>64,519</u>	<u>6,823</u>	<u>80,205</u>
Net book value					
31 March 2016	<u>324,111</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>324,111</u>

	2017	2016
	£	£
8 Cash at bank and in hand		
Current bank account	60,423	43,818
Business select bank account	-	82
Cash plus business debit card	470	501
PayPal account	5	15
Petty Cash	200	200
Other cash in hand	1,225	545
	<u>62,323</u>	<u>45,161</u>

9 Debtors and prepayments

	2017	2016
	£	£
Debtors and prepayments		
Trade debtors	21,894	20,803
Other debtors	2,775	2,321
Prepayments and accrued income	5,464	4,384
Total	<u>30,133</u>	<u>27,508</u>

10 Creditors and accruals

	2017	2016
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	4,227	5,232
Accruals and deferred income	19,700	650
Tax and social security	3,800	2,564
Total	<u>27,727</u>	<u>8,446</u>

11 Movement of funds

11.1 Movement of major funds

2017 Fund name	Balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
Unrestricted funds (General)					
General unrestricted funds	34,307	81,776	76,542	10,345	49,886
	34,307	81,776	76,542	10,345	49,886
Restricted funds					
Environment Centre	302,299	-	-	-	302,299
Recycling Scheme	-	71,700	71,700	-	-
Facility improvements	3,976	-	-	-	3,976
Grounds extension fund	2,675	-	-	-	2,675
Worm Zones project	8,684	1,650	18	(10,316)	-
SNEC	22,964	32,969	53,108	-	2,825
English Woodland project	7,271	-	6,002	-	1,269
Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust	259	-	259	-	-
North of England Hort Soc	500	-	522	22	-
Grow Wild Youth 2016	(296)	500	204	-	-
York Open Eco Home	1,902	500	1,909	-	493
En Able	2,000	-	2,000	-	-
York Urban Becks Clean Up	1,850	-	1,803	(47)	-
Wetland Meadow	5	1,014	380	-	639
Cobb Charitable Trust	-	500	500	-	-
Postcode Local Trust	-	17,180	10,527	-	6,653
Shine	-	900	896	(4)	-
Brelms Trust	-	3,000	2,241	-	759
John Lewis Foundation	-	1,200	1,200	-	-
Purey Cust	-	2,530	1,104	-	1,426
P & D Shepherd Charitabl Trust	-	250	250	-	-
Jack Brunton Trust	-	500	-	-	500
Persimmon	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
Arlish & Chambers	-	500	500	-	-
Orchard Windfalls	-	-	256	-	(256)
Building Fund	-	1,216	85	-	1,131
D'Oyly Carte	-	2,000	200	-	1,800
Big Lottery - Autumn Fayre	-	2,703	-	-	2,703
CYC Improving Communities	-	1,346	-	-	1,346
Woodroffe Benton	-	500	500	-	-
Derwenthorpe	-	-	579	-	(579)
Action towards inclusion	-	7,613	3,655	-	3,958
Martin Wills Maintenance Trust	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
York Disaster Fund Flood Appeal	-	3,600	-	-	3,600
CYC Ward - Pond dipping	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
TEWV	-	-	112	-	(112)
	354,089	157,871	162,510	(10,345)	339,105
Total Funds	388,396	239,647	239,052	-	388,991

2016 Fund Name	Balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	25,449	82,828	93,037	19,067	34,307
	<u>25,449</u>	<u>82,828</u>	<u>93,037</u>	<u>19,067</u>	<u>34,307</u>
Restricted funds					
Environment Centre	302,299	-	-	-	302,299
Recycling scheme	-	71,700	60,770	(10,930)	-
DEFRA project	4,935	-	-	(4,935)	-
Facility improvements	3,976	-	-	-	3,976
Grounds extension fund	2,675	-	1,000	-	1,675
Master gardener project	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Worm Zones project	10,657	16,918	18,891	-	8,684
First Transpennine	2,797	-	2,797	-	-
SNEC	21,541	48,401	46,978	-	22,964
English Woodland project	7,492	4,899	5,120	-	7,271
SITA	-	7,662	4,500	(3,162)	-
Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust	-	2,000	1,741	-	259
North of England Hort Soc	-	500	-	-	500
Grow Wild Youth 2015	-	500	460	(40)	-
Grow Wild Youth 2016	-	-	296	-	(296)
York Open eco home	-	1,902	-	-	1,902
En able	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
York Urban Becks clean up	-	2,000	150	-	1,850
Wetland Meadow	-	5	-	-	5
	<u>357,372</u>	<u>158,487</u>	<u>142,703</u>	<u>(19,067)</u>	<u>354,089</u>
Total Funds	<u>382,821</u>	<u>241,315</u>	<u>235,740</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>388,396</u>

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 Fund

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

Facility improvements

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

Grounds extension fund

A fund held towards extending the facilities of the centre.

Worm Zones project

A 2 year project in partnership with York Playspace to provide sustainability sessions for local children.

SNEC

Eco-therapy project for mentally ill recoverees.

English Woodland project

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

Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust

Horticultural grant for Centre garden and entrance improvement project.

North of England Hort Soc

Nature Reserve entrance improvement through native planting schemes.

Grow Wild Youth 2016

Project to improve woodland ground flora through native planting schemes in thickset habitat.

York Open Eco Home

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

En Able

Funding workshops to provide Future Proofing your Home ie, maximising energy efficiency.

York Urban Becks Clean Up

Heworth Holme wetlands and access improvement project.

Wetland Meadow

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

Cobb Charitable Trust

To help fund volunteer coordinator

Postcode Local Trust

To manage Heworth Holme Wetlands

Shine

Children's activity sessions during summer holidays

Brelms Trust

To help fund Nature Reserves manager leading volunteers in conservation.

John Lewis Foundation

Wildlife workshops to educate about local ecology

Purey Cust

To expand activities in our ecotherapy project.

P& D Shepherd Charitable Trust

To help fund volunteer coordinator

Jack Brunton Trust

To support our volunteer programme.

Persimmon

To fund materials to aid our volunteers.

Arlish & Chambers

To support our volunteer programme.

Orchard Windfalls

To help fund orchard planting project.

Building Fund

To help with repairs to the Environment Centre building.

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

Woodroffe Benton

To help fund St. Nick's overheads.

Derwenthorpe

Wildlife monitoring and recording project at Derwenthorpe.

Action towards inclusion

Building better opportunities - to help find employment.

Martin Wills Maintenance Trust

To support our volunteer programme.

York Disaster Fund Flood Appeal

To research/plan to mitigate future floods.

CYC Ward - Pond dipping

To repair our pond and surrounds.

TEWV

To support extension of our ecotherapy project.

Transfers between funds represent remaining balances on completed projects transferred to unrestricted funds following receipt of consent from the fund providers.

12 Net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2017
	£	£	£
Balances at 31st March 2017			
Fixed assets	21,812	302,299	324,111
Current assets	55,803	36,804	92,607
Current liabilities	(27,727)		(27,727)
	49,888	339,105	388,991
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2016
	£	£	£
Balances at 31st March 2016			
Fixed assets	21,812	302,299	324,111
Current assets	20,941	51,790	72,731
Current liabilities	(8,446)	-	8,446
	34,307	354,089	388,396



Environment Centre, photo by Lewis Outing



It's not all hard work and no play at St Nicks! Christmas social 2016



Water Vole Day 2016, photo by Lewis Outing