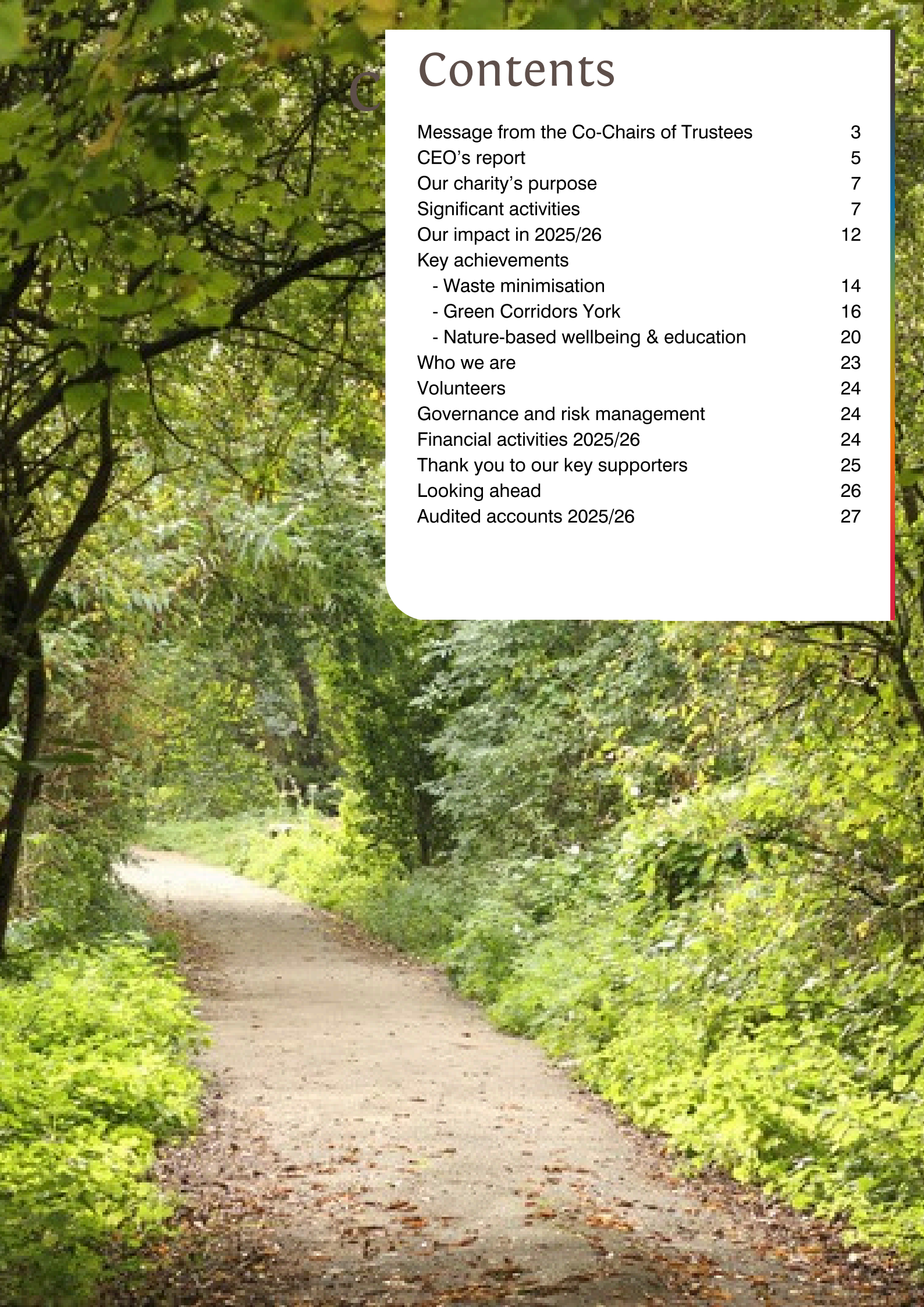


Annual report 2025/26

St Nicks
The Green Heart of York



Contents

Message from the Co-Chairs of Trustees	3
CEO's report	5
Our charity's purpose	7
Significant activities	7
Our impact in 2025/26	12
Key achievements	
- Waste minimisation	14
- Green Corridors York	16
- Nature-based wellbeing & education	20
Who we are	23
Volunteers	24
Governance and risk management	24
Financial activities 2025/26	24
Thank you to our key supporters	25
Looking ahead	26
Audited accounts 2025/26	27





Message from the Co-Chairs of Trustees

We are delighted to be writing this report as the new co-chairs of St Nicks, marking the first time the charity has operated this leadership model on the Board of Trustees. It's a real privilege to be part of such an incredible organisation, at a time when the work of St Nicks is more vital than ever. The charity continues to rise to the challenge, and once again this year, has gone from strength to strength – and that is down to the hard work and dedication of our staff and volunteers.

This year saw continued changes in our climate, driving weather extremes with severe effects on our local and national ecosystems. The Met Office recorded Summer 2025 as the then warmest year on record, with York breaking the 30 degrees C barrier four times, followed by the fifth wettest autumn and winter on record. Against this backdrop, we are proud that our work continues to provide a catalyst to convene local partners to act for the common good on a rage of environmental issues across our city and its surrounding areas.

Our Waste Minimisation teams processed a record tonnage of residential and business recycling in the year while once again maintaining a 0% contamination rate. Residential participation rates outpaced the national average, and our presence again supported major city events like York Pride. The service continues to be very well regarded across the city.



In Nature-based Wellbeing, the ecotherapy service delivered hundreds of group meetings over the year while maintaining continuity and quality of care for our participants. The tail end of the year presented significant challenges due to expiring grant funding. In response, the staff team re-designed the service model and successfully secured alternative funding, so that we can continue to provide a sustainable service going forwards and support the needs of our communities effectively.

Our Nature Conservation work, delivered through Green Corridors York, has also flourished. From linking up habitats of the iconic tansy beetle along the River Ouse, to working with farmers on local flood plain management, and the iconic York Walls in Bloom project with City of York Council, it is clear that taking a holistic approach to our natural environment is the right way to foster ecological diversity and resilience. We are heartened to be part of the shared endeavour on this across and beyond York, especially through the North Yorkshire & York Local Nature Recovery Strategy. This year Sessions Nature Reserve in New Earswick came into the St Nicks family following the kind bequest of its founder Bill Sessions.



We have also continued to build up our Educational activities, enabling children, young people and families – particularly those on low incomes and/or with limited access to nature – to develop their connection to the world around them. We substantially increased participation in the year, tripling the number of group sessions and nearly doubling attendance at our ‘Green Leaders’ activities, as well as providing hundreds of holiday club places. We look forward to continuing to cultivate this work, to spread awareness, knowledge, and empower people to take action for our shared environment.

As St Nicks has grown over recent years it has become increasingly apparent that our Environment Centre is no longer fit for purpose. Following extensive discussions at the Board we embarked on project proposals to retrofit and extend the building which received planning permission in December 2025. The project requires significant capital investment before construction can begin. We are therefore exploring our options and would be interested in any approaches to discuss possible funding.

Lastly, with our new CEO Vicky bedded in, this year the Board and Senior Team went through a process to develop a new three year strategy for the organisation, to give clearer direction and voice to our ambitions in the changing environment we are operating in (we will be publishing this on our website in due course).

We can't end without giving a huge thanks to all the incredible people who make up St Nicks. The tireless staff team and enthusiastic volunteers and trustees, our valued partners and funders, and the wider community who unwaveringly support and enable our work – all together it is you who make us greater than the sum of our parts. We are immensely grateful to each one of you – thank you for all you do to make York a place where nature can thrive.

Marina Lambrakis & Jamie Sims
Co-Chairs of the Board of Trustees



CEO's report

It brings me great joy to report another successful year for St Nicks! This report highlights the scale and quality of the work that the team undertake and our success as an organisation is testament to the hard work, commitment and skill across the whole organisation.

This year, we saw our income tip over £800,000 for the first time, our work with children and young people increase, new partnerships develop, new sites for nature recovery and a participation rate in residential recycling well above the national average! Although we have demonstrated huge success, we must not lose sight of the challenges that we continue to face both as an organisation and across the wider sector to continue to deliver for our people, planet and nature. Unprecedented temperatures and dry weather meant that our Green Corridors team had to adapt and innovate to continue to help nature thrive. Despite this, we were pleased to see the success and spectacle of the York Walls in Bloom project, working in partnership with the Local Authority to deliver a stunning display of wildflowers in prominent areas of the city for residents and visitors alike to enjoy and learn from.

Our ecotherapy programme saw increased demand and need, all at a time when we were facing significant cuts to our funding. Throughout this time, the team continued to support participants with care and respect, delivering an excellent programme of support and managing transitions with diligence and care, resulting in excellent personal outcomes for participants and using nature as a catalyst for positive personal change. We responded to antisocial behaviour on the nature reserve by securing PFCC funding to engage with local young people and give them a sense of ownership of the site.

Despite working to limited capacity both in terms of people and vehicles for part of the year, our waste minimisation team continued to deliver kerbside recycling to the highest quality, ensuring a consistent 0% contamination rate and year on year increase in volumes. This year we saw a St Nicks record of 595 tonnes of recycling collected and sorted.

As we look to the next financial year, we know that funding will continue to be one of our biggest challenges. We are working closely as a team to minimise the impact of this and ensure that we can continue to deliver to the highest standard for York. This is no mean feat but I am sure that our team will continue to adapt, respond and innovate to continue delivering for our community.

Vicky Blakey-Archer
CEO



Our charity's purpose

St Nicks aims to:

- Preserve and conserve the area known as St Nicholas Fields, including the flora and fauna of the area, for the benefit and education of the public

- Promote the public education of persons resident in York and surrounding areas in principles and benefits of environmental and conservation issues and of sustainability including but not limited to recycling and waste reduction

- Promote the benefit of the public by providing facilities in the interests of social welfare and leisure time occupation with the object of improving their conditions of life

We work to meet these aims in the following ways:

Recycling and Waste Management



Our City Centre Recycling service has continued to perform well with strong, positive feedback from residents and customers alike. We collect residential recycling in line with our contract with City of York Council and commercial recycling provides much needed unrestricted income to the charity. Both business and residential recycling have grown this year, with expansions to the number of residential properties and commercial customers we collect from. Although there have been changes to our what we can recycle through TerraCycle, we have been able to explore more collaborative opportunities in the city and continue to provide high quality recycling and landfill diversion services at more and larger scale events.

Nature-based Wellbeing

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

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



Participants who join our programme are invited to a group, for example Words from the Wild or Slow Floristry. Each group focusses on nature and uses the nature reserve. In addition, we offer 1:1 mentoring. This mentoring enables someone attending the group to fully engage in the session, knowing that 1:1 support is separately available should they need it.

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

Education

We have expanded our provision for children and young people this year to include a seasonal weekly youth group, Urban Wild, and developing opportunities for young people to engage in research projects. We have continued to run our Holiday Clubs, through CYC's Holiday Activities and Food Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund. These hugely popular holiday sessions engage families and young people in seasonal nature-based activities with the majority of uptake from families on low incomes. Each session includes a lunch cooked on the campfire and allows families to develop a deep nature connection. Nature Tots, our group for parents and young children aged 0-4, has continued to grow.

Green corridors



Green Corridors York strives for "more, bigger, better and more joined up" green spaces, conserving nature whilst supporting our communities. By connecting fragments of green space in the urban landscape, corridors link access to habitats and reduce the isolation of wildlife populations, enabling plants and animals to flourish and improving biodiversity. They also provide benefits for humans by increasing urban ventilation and reducing the urban heat island affect, providing some flood resilience and the positive effects that green space has on human mental and physical health.



Our work in Green Corridors seeks to:

Develop and maintain St Nicks Local Nature Reserve (LNR) as an important greenspace in York supporting priority habitat and species

The nature reserve continues to be the flagship site across the St Nicks Green Corridors project, with its value as the main volunteering hub and home to nature-based wellbeing activities and youth engagement work. This year resource was focused on starting the renewal and restoration of much of the nature reserve infrastructure (entrances, signage, footpaths and steps, fences, benches) that was originally installed over 15–20 years ago.

Create and regenerate connected greenspace and habitat across York and connected areas through wildlife corridors, quantifying the benefits

The project has improved the condition of natural heritage by supporting better habitat management, restoration, and partnership working across the corridors. Restoration work, including grassland enhancement, riverbank reprofiling and invasive species control, has enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem health. Targeted actions have expanded and improved key habitats: thousands of Tansy beetle food plants have been planted, new refuge areas created, and water vole habitats enhanced through improved vegetation management. Floodplain meadows have also been restored and brought under more sustainable management, with increasing involvement from local farmers.



Grow and sustain work with stakeholders and partner organisations to increase the amount and value of greenspace

Collaboration with organisations such as drainage boards, local authorities, government bodies and landowners has enabled more nature-friendly management across large areas, helping reconnect habitats and support species like water voles and Tansy beetles. The geographical scale of the Green Corridors work across the rivers and floodplains expanded significantly over the 3 years as learning, knowledge and new partnerships grew. Our increased role in Tansy beetle conservation took the project further upstream and downstream on the River Ouse, outside of the City of York boundary. Working at these geographic extents provides challenges but is vital to ensure the continued spread of the beetles to ensure greater resilience. Through relationships with local farmers we have been successful in improving the management of 7 floodplain meadows during the project totalling over 50ha of habitat.

Develop tools for sustainable land management – grassland, woodland and wetland/becks - expanding capacity and capability in ourselves and others to help manage greenspaces



The Green Corridors Community of Practice was established as a key tool to strengthen the relationships between groups to share learning and expertise. It has ensured that organisations and individuals across York are well equipped and skilled to look after our green spaces, but there needs to be more done. Training communities, engaging volunteer community champions, enabling independent management of spaces, and building long-term capacity across the city via the Community of Practice is essential for sustaining the success of Green Corridors. At a sold-out CoP development workshop in December, attendees highlighted the value of the CoP for connecting knowledge within the city and playing a coordinating role for action and strategy. CoP highlights for participants have included training sessions hosted by Forest of Flowers, Design Workshops held for the landscape development of York Central and Local Nature Recovery Strategy workshops.

Seek opportunities to secure and lead projects, continuing to actively seek opportunities to manage, assist in the management of and/or monitor greenspaces

Stronger partnerships—locally and regionally—have opened up further opportunities, including potential leadership roles in larger projects. The York Walls in Bloom project came from closer working with City of York Council through the Urban Green Corridors partnership and has created a platform to scale further across the city walls habitat. Our involvement as a demonstrator project in the Yorkshire Policy Innovation Partnership led to working with the Stockholm Environment Institute to deliver a ‘Future Yorkshire Land use’ integration pilot study. This linked the implementation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy with Green Corridors York to test and demonstrate the value of improved knowledge exchange and coordination at a city-wide level to increase nature recovery. A series of workshops with land managers, biodiversity experts, council environmental officers, parish councillors, charities and local environmental groups gathered detailed local knowledge to create participatory maps of green spaces to target LNRS measures and generate prioritised lists of measures and ultimately actions to deliver.





> Thank you for all the care and love you put into our little underrated corner of York
> - regular reserve visitor

Our impact in 2025/26

Minimising waste

423 tonnes of residential recycling

and

172 tonnes of business recycling

all hand sorted at kerbside by our dedicated team, almost 8 tonnes more than last year

132 business customers have been with us for more than three years

> "A massive thank you to the St Nicks team… after the festival it really looked as if nothing had taken place in the park (let alone having 8,000 people on site!) You did an amazing job in helping care for the park and ensuring we could host a big event which was as gentle as possibly to our environment."

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

68% residential participation rate (this is over 1.5 times higher than the national average)



Ecotherapy

5,220 participant hours logged at Ecotherapy groups, 16 more hours than last year

> "The ecotherapy programme at St Nicks has literally been a lifeline for me in helping me to manage anxiety and depression. The kindness, thoughtfulness, care and support I have received here is the most wonderful and most appreciated thing."

8 Ecotherapy groups held on a weekly basis

11 additional groups held on a seasonal basis

7 more groups than in 2024/25

104 participants engaging in our Ecotherapy groups, an increase of 8 from 24/25

92% of participants felt that engaging with St Nicks helped them access nature





Education

214 educational groups and sessions held in 2025/26, an increase of 162

651 children and young people attended our “Green Leaders” activities (almost double 2024/25!)

> Thank you. You made me feel less alone when I was struggling. Urban Wild changed everything - young participant

> Thank you so much for making this space available for me. I don't have any outside space for my baby - there are needles on the grass outside my flat, and it's so important to me that my baby can experience nature. I can't afford groups so this is so important for me and my baby - Parent accessing free space at Nature Tots

17 different uniformed groups partnered with in York, 4 more than last year

426 places at our holiday club given to low-income families



Green corridors

> The Green Corridors project is not only creating habitats for wildlife and people, through shared knowledge and events, it is also a great opportunity to bring communities and groups together.

We have engaged with

36 local businesses

12 churches and faith groups

4 colleges and universities

to enhance nature across green corridor sites or on their own land

388.5 hectares of river and floodplain has improved management thanks to our work

395 individual volunteers over 2025/26

> Being able to take volunteering leave to get into nature and learn about ecology, biodiversity and habitat management in a hands-on way with St Nicks is a truly incredible and inspirational opportunity, helping me connect to the landscape around me, improving my wellbeing, and making me feel part of my wider community. - corporate volunteer group member



Key achievements: Waste minimisation

Apart from tonnages, one way we measure how well the recycling rounds are doing is by tracking the participation rates. This is calculated by counting the number of properties that have put their recycling out, dividing that by the number of properties that could have put out and multiplying by 100 to get a percentage.

Our average participation rate for 2024/25 was 68%, this is well above the national average of 44.6% (UK statistics on waste - GOV.UK) - some local authorities reach as high as 63% (2024/25 Recycling League Table England - letsrecycle.com) such as Stratford on Avon but there are only 6 local authorities with recycling rates over 60%. York stands at 40.3% (our neighbours in East Riding are consistently in the top 10 achieving rates over 61%).

We believe a number of factors contribute to our higher recycling rates.

We collect weekly from our residents. Most local authorities collect recycling on a fortnightly basis, though some areas are now on a rolling system whereby each material will only be collected once a month. For instance, residents may have a larger wheeled bin for cardboard that is collected on an alternative fortnightly basis to a separate bin for plastics. While data collection methods account for the discrepancies in collection frequency, it does add complication for residents! As we collect all items on a weekly basis, our residents don't need to try and remember (or work out!) what bin goes out on which week: they know they just put all their recycling out on the same day, so it's much less likely that they will accidentally miss a collection.



York Pride 2025

The way we collect also gives residents more opportunities to engage with us or bring their recycling out late. As we hand sort at the kerbside, we tend to spend longer on any given street than a large wagon would. Not only do people hear us clinking glass into bags or stamping cardboard flat, they have time to throw on a dressing gown and bring their recycling out to us if they have forgotten to put it out or slept in!

We believe having a small, amiable team in little slightly comical vehicles encourages people to come and talk to us. On our surveys our residents regularly described us as approachable, knowledgeable and friendly. This helps because people will come and ask us about specific materials and how to dispose of it responsibly, we do still get “wish-cycling”, that is, people put the things they wish could be recycled, in their containers but a little note or conversation helps people understand why we collect what we do and how to present it helps to reduce contamination.

As previously mentioned, we hand sort at the kerbside: this not only gives residents time to come and talk to us but means we can guarantee there is zero contamination in our recycling. All of these factors combine to give us recycling rates to be proud of and shows the positive impact of our model!



Terracycle continued to close their brigades in 2025/26 so what was once a busy and popular service is reduced to one waste stream (biscuit wrappers). We work with a local metal merchant to recycle aluminium cans, foil and cables so expanded our “tricky materials” services to include those for public drop off points too. Aluminium cans and foil are both recyclable at the kerbside in York, but our public drop off points do still get enough use to make it worth continuing.

Internally at St Nicks, we’ve been considering our own waste impact as well. When reviewing our procurement processes, we found that supplies were often being purchased by individual teams to meet immediate needs. While this helped staff quickly source materials for sessions, it sometimes resulted in products entering the building that did not align with our sustainability goals, such as tea bags that were not fully compostable. We also received generous donations of refreshments and supplies from group attendees, some of which came in packaging that could not be composted or easily recycled. In response to this we have reviewed our internal procurement procedures and worked on educating our staff and groups to better align our buying and consumption habits with our aims and values.

Key achievements:
Green Corridors York (GCY)

St Nicks Local Nature Reserve



St Nicks' dedicated Wildwatch volunteers continued to record the wide range of species that make St Nicks their home. Ecology Officer Miranda now helps coordinate the group including welcoming the new faces we get throughout the year. A few changes were implemented to how we collect data during this period including changes to the recording tools we use in order to better contribute to national data records and track trends more effectively, as well as introducing 'bioblitz' sessions to survey more intensely specific areas of grassland, woodland and scrub (the main habitats of the LNR) to monitor change over time.

The total number of species found now stands at 2618, with numerous highlights recorded this year, including:
·Seraphin moth, classed as 'scarce and local resident' in Yorkshire
·Our wildlife camera was put to good use this year with an otter staring in October, followed by a beautiful video of fox den activity in February with background audio of a tawny owl.
·Ornate-tailed Digger Wasp (Cerceris rybyensis) was recorded in July 25, new for the site and the vice-county recording area.
·Woodcarving Leafcutter Bee (Megachile ligniseca - picturted above), also found July 25, is Britain's largest leafcutter bee. St Nicks is the northern edge of its British range.
·And finally just a shout out to the tiny creatures as St Nicks 90th species of aphid found in July 25, a Woolly Birch Aphid!



Our successful Volunteer Park Ranger scheme continues to be the backbone of St Nicks Local Nature Reserve management. In return for providing the vital skills and experience needed to enter the nature conservation sector, we get 6 months of hard work and dedication from our team of two rangers, who in turn support and supervise our wide range of regular and one-off volunteers who keep the site open, accessible and thriving for wildlife. This year we say a huge thank you to Eleanor and Rachel, and Sierra and Gillian for the impact they have made.

In January, our very own and much loved Eithne Phillips left St Nicks to start a new job. Eithne's journey with St Nicks started 13 years ago, and since then she has done so much for the organisation and has been a big part the nature reserve and Green Corridors team.

Interpreting Green Corridors

This year has seen an effort to improve how the nature recovery work is identified and explained through expanded ecological surveying, monitoring, and interpretation. A wide range of surveys—such as habitat assessments, river health monitoring, and key species tracking (e.g. water voles and Tansy beetles)— were carried out with support from experts and trained volunteers. These surveys have provided the data to better understand local biodiversity, track changes, and inform conservation actions. At the same time, corridor signage and a wide range of explainer boards helped communicate the purpose and impact of conservation work to the public. These resources are shared via the Wild York platform, widening access and consistency of information across the network.



Community of Practice

The Green Corridors Community of Practice was established to strengthen the relationships between groups in order to share learning and expertise. It has ensured that organisations and individuals across York are well equipped and skilled to look after our green spaces, but there needs to be more done. Training communities, engaging volunteer community champions, enabling independent management of spaces, and building long-term capacity across the city via the Community of Practice is essential for sustaining the success of Green Corridors. At a sold-out CoP development workshop in December, attendees highlighted the value of the CoP for connecting knowledge within the city and playing a coordinating role for action and strategy. CoP highlights for participants have included training sessions hosted by Forest of Flowers, Design Workshops held for the landscape development of York Central and Local Nature Recovery Strategy workshops.

Floodplain Meadows and Tansy Beetles

The geographical scale of the Green Corridors work across the rivers and floodplains expanded significantly over the 3 years as learning, knowledge and new partnerships grew. Our increased role in Tansy beetle conservation took the project further upstream and downstream on the River Ouse, outside of the City of York boundary. Working at these geographic extents provides challenges but is vital to ensure the continued spread of the beetles to ensure greater resilience. Through relationships with local farmers we have been successful in improving the management of 7 floodplain meadows during the project totalling over 50ha of habitat.

York Walls in Bloom

The York Walls in Bloom project demonstrated how biodiversity work can also reshape public understanding of urban habitats. The York Walls in Bloom project started with the City of York Council (CYC) wanting to change the way they manage the city walls from amenity grassland and formal bedding to species-rich wildflower planting. The work at Station Rise was seen



as a highly visible example of nature recovery in the city centre, and a project that would not only impact wildlife, but would also be seen by residents, businesses, visitors, volunteers, and impact the reputation of the council. This project was a key one to get right, because it had the ability to showcase how ecological restoration can be publicly engaging and visually striking at the same time. Whilst there had been some criticism of the removal of the formal planting displays, this reduced when the wildflowers came into bloom over summer and was replaced by positivity. York Walls in Bloom not only improved the biodiversity of the habitat surrounding York's historic walls, and raised awareness of the efforts across the city, but also demonstrated a shift in land management practice for CYC. With a more ecological approach, and less intense nature of maintaining wildflower displays, the initiative has the potential to lower maintenance costs over time and create further work with the council to repeat this in other sites across the city walls, such as at the Red Tower.

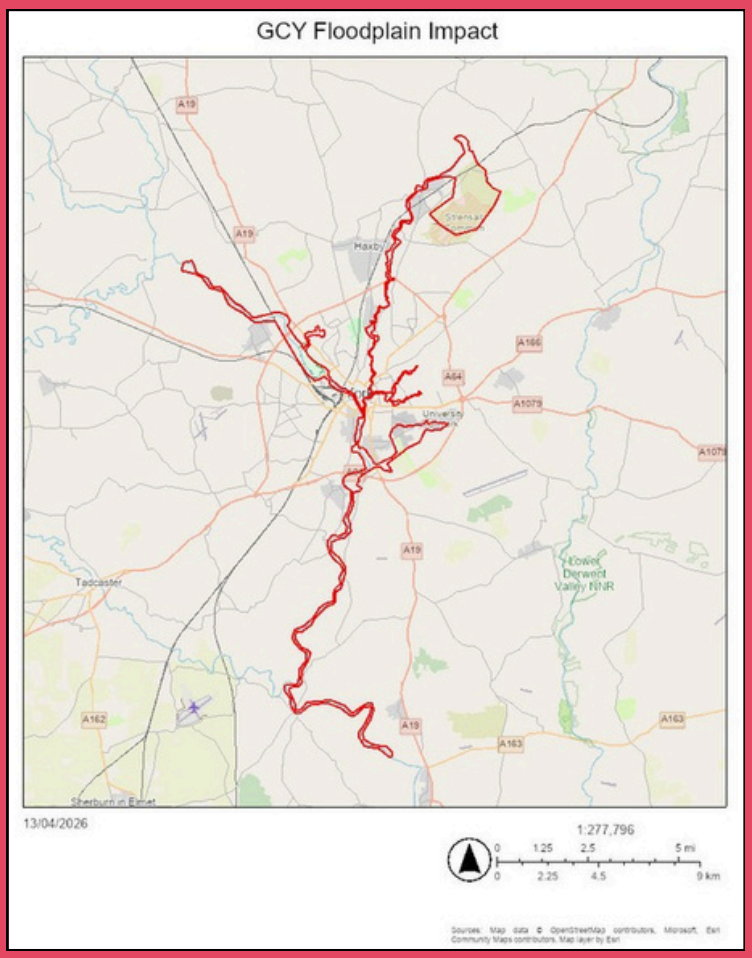
Sessions nature reserve

Our land at Sessions Nature Reserve is managed as part of the River Foss Corridor. The land is a vital refuge for wildlife away from the roads and houses which run alongside the river. Our work so far has been of a light touch with a focus on Himalayan balsam control and tree and scrub management to develop the woodland understory. Our partners at the River Foss Society survey the original and more natural section of the river here, including monitoring the freshwater invertebrates found. The results here are by far the most interesting in terms of positive indicator species found along the downstream section of the river. This area a reminder of what the river Foss used to be before being heavily modified, and the survey results provide an insight into the potential for biodiversity across the whole river if restoration took place.

Sharing our expertise more widely

Green Corridors York continues to deliver "more, bigger, better and more joined up" greenspaces and initiatives. The Green Corridors Rivers and Floodplains funding (National Lottery Heritage Fund) came to an end in March 2026, at which we said goodbye to Habitat Officer Joe Whitney whose contract was tied to the funding. Joe had a positive impact in the project, particularly in developing the River Foss corridor volunteer group. Overall, we are very proud of what has been achieved during the last year of this 3-year project on the Ouse and the Foss, but perhaps the biggest impact has been on us as an organisation. By taking the leap to work across such a wide scale (area/km) we become a key trusted partner for delivering wider nature recovery ambitions across the rivers, supporting the council, various agencies and landowners to deliver practical action. We now sit on the

board of the Dales to Vale Rivers Network and the Foss Internal Drainage Board, and relationships developed with key national and regional strategic organisations have led to led to opportunities in terms of funding, support and joint working. We've also become the key delivery organisation on the Tansy Beetle Action Group as well as continuing to feed into the Yorkshire Water Vole Project and two members of the team are ambassadors for the Floodplain Meadows Partnership. Our work on these riparian corridors will continue beyond the lottery funding, thanks to alternative longer-term funding including strategic contract work, countryside stewardship schemes for floodplain meadow management and several smaller multiyear grant schemes. Our involvement as a demonstrator project in the Yorkshire Policy Innovation Partnership led to working with the Stockholm Environment Institute to deliver a ‘Future Yorkshire Land use’ integration pilot study. This linked the implementation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) with Green Corridors York to test and demonstrate the value of improved knowledge exchange and coordination at a city-wide level to increase nature recovery. A series of workshops with land managers, biodiversity experts, council environmental officers, parish councillors, charities and local environmental groups gathered detailed local knowledge to create participatory maps of green spaces to target LNRS measures and generate prioritised lists of measures and ultimately actions to deliver.



> St Nicks has also made local partnership working more effective. Through them, stronger connections have been built between ourselves, the Internal Drainage Board, local groups such as the River Foss Society and others. Working with them has shown us the possibilities when there is a capable local partner in place.
>
> Duncan Fyfe - Catchment Coordinator Yorkshire, Environment Agency

Key achievements: Nature-based Wellbeing & Education



We were pleased to welcome almost 50 new participants, leading to a total of 104 enrolled on our various adult Ecotherapy groups, and we engaged with 377 young green leaders during 2025-26. With our main source of funding for the programme coming to an end in Spring 2026, this caused us to pause and reflect on the service we offered.

We undertook a co-produced service re-design project in 2025 to learn what people valued and how best we meet the needs of current, and potential future participants. In 2026 we successfully secured funding to re-launch a 'Nature-Based Wellbeing' programme at St Nicks, bringing our ecotherapy and youth activity programmes together under one banner to share the benefits of nature connection for everyone's wellbeing throughout their lives. The team would like to offer our warmest thanks to everyone who has been involved in our work for over a decade, and we look forward to welcoming more participants to help us shape and grow our new programme of activities.



Some highlights from our year included an 'Eco-Action Day' which we hosted in Spring with sponsored walks, poetry readings and creative writing on the typewriter. Spring, also saw us start the Friends of the Hub Gardening group at 30 Clarence Street, working with volunteers to gently transform the garden into a beautiful and welcoming space, including rose beds, mini-pond and sensory garden. We also launched our Urban Wild youth group (for 11–16-year-olds) learning skills like fire-lighting and whittling and our Nature Tots sessions for pre-school aged children to encourage a love of the outdoors from an early stage.

We had a busy Summer running inclusive Nature Adventurers school holiday activities for children, including climbing trees, outdoor cookery, games and den building. Our Wellies and Wheelbarrows group brought our raised beds back into bloom, creating a thriving green space for our group sessions to run outside. We grew our own produce at Foss Park and Holgate allotments, learnt off-loom tapestry weaving in partnership with York Learning. Art and Creative Writing group visited the archives at York Minster's Old Palace Library and Homestead Park. Discover Nature ventured to the Ouse looking for tansy beetles and enjoyed paddling the stream at Dalby Forest. A new activity, Slow Floristry took to planting up flowerpots for the garden, arranging peony posies, learning ikebana (Japanese flower arranging) and creating table displays inspired by Monet's still life paintings.



In Autumn, we showcased ecotherapy at the Autumn Fayre, Discover Nature photography group created a calendar using images they'd taken over the past year. They also enjoyed a fungi walk and an evening of bat spotting. Bearing Fruit enjoyed several visits from fruit tree expert Louise Cantalay of Abundance York, culminating in an apple tasting session where they reaped the rewards of their efforts maintaining apple trees on the reserve. Nature Tots and Nature Adventurers also enjoyed apple tasting and seasonal conker-themed crafts, and we continued to run outreach sessions with groups of children and young people experiencing barriers to accessing nature.

> "Ecotherapy has been a wonderful, marvellous journey. Arriving at the gates of St Nicks has felt like arriving at an oasis of calm and safety. Through words, images and flowers, kindness and tea, I have been transported to a place away from the stresses of my family cares and worries. Connecting with living things, plants, birds, butterflies, people. I have felt part of something and I am forever grateful."
>
> Ecotherapy participant

Winter saw our final Willow Weaving sessions focused on round basket construction, Slow Floristry made traditional winter wreaths, and we took part in York Minster's Christmas Tree Festival with handmade decorations made by the Art and Creative Writing, Ecocrafters and Urban Wild groups this year. We began running a series of Arts Afternoons at The Hub and Foss Park hospital to share our approach to nature-connection with more people in York. Sweet Chestnut taught green wood-working skills and Warm Space – Puzzling for Wellbeing sessions returned offering hot food and good company through the coldest part of the year.

We look forward to launching our new model for Nature-based Wellbeing in 2026/27.



"Thank you for adapting the session so that they could all join in. Our children with PMLD (profound and multiple learning difficulties) love being outside and it's brilliant that you've created opportunities so that they can experience toasting teacakes and exploring nature. We really appreciate it."

Specialist teacher of high need children, Hob Moor Oaks

Who we are

Trustees

Stuart Leslie, Chair (until Nov 2025)
Marina Lambrakis, Co-Chair (from Nov 2025)
Jamie Sims, Co-Chair (from Nov 2025)
Emma Beddington
Emily Casey
Martin Crosby, Vice-Chair
Samuel Crutchley, Treasurer
Harrison Green, Secretary
Savannah Green

Staff

Vicky Blakey-Archer, CEO
Sara Addy, Ecotherapy Officer
Gillian Astbury, Green Corridors Community Engagement Officer
Christine Banham, Ecotherapy Youth Mentor
Dave Carrier, Recycling Officer (from June 2025)
Mark Claridge, Recycling Officer
Jonathan Dent, Green Corridors Manager
Sam Dredge, Recycling Officer
Miranda Dunstan, Green Corridors Ecology Officer
Eliza Fergusson, Charity Support Manager
Maria Gill, Senior Green Corridors Officer
Clea Grady, Marketing & Communications Officer (from July 2025)
Beki Hagger, Senior Green Corridors Officer
David Hammond, Recycling Officer
Charlotte Hanson, Recycling Officer (until January 2026)
Andrew Harper, Nature-based Wellbeing Manager - Maternity Cover (until December 2025)
Marc Hodgson, Senior Recycling Officer
Chris King, Recycling Officer
Jane Mackay, Ecotherapy Officer
Maeve Milliken, Green Corridors Habitats Officer
Anna Perrett, Nature-based Wellbeing Manager
Eithne Philips, Ecotherapy Officer (until January 2026)
Josh Riddell, Recycling Officer (from June 2025)
Catriona Strachan, Ecotherapy Officer
Sam Taylor, Waste & Recycling Manager
Eleanor Tookey, Senior Ecotherapy Officer (until January 2026)
Martha Tookey, Recycling Officer (until June 2025)
Nicola Ward, Senior Green Corridors Officer
David Walker, Reserve and Maintenance Officer
Stuart Watling, Senior Recycling Officer
Joe Whitney, Green Corridors Habitats Officer (until March 2026)



Patron

Kate Pickett

Volunteers

There is no doubt about it that St Nicks would not be able to complete the current scale of work without the support of our volunteers. From our board of trustees to our Park Rangers, regular volunteers and corporate groups, our volunteers bring energy and enthusiasm for all parts of the organisation. Across the whole organisation, we engaged with over 400 volunteers in 25/26 and we would like to thank each and every one of those individuals for so generously giving up their time to support us.

Governance and risk management

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

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

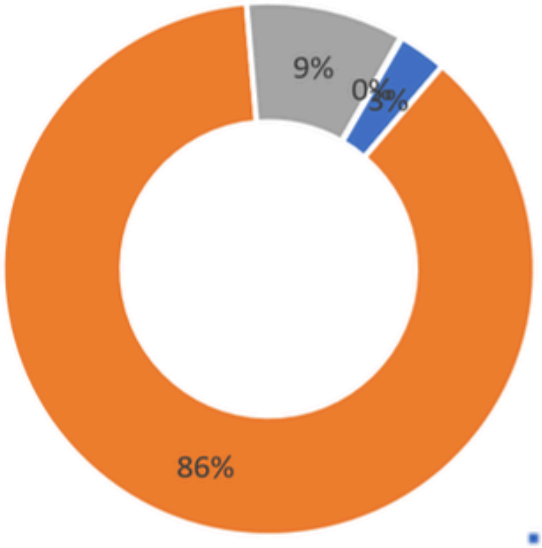
Overall, the Board of Trustees of St Nicks have given consideration to the most significant risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that appropriate and proportional systems and procedures are in place to mitigate those risks.

Financial activities 2025/26

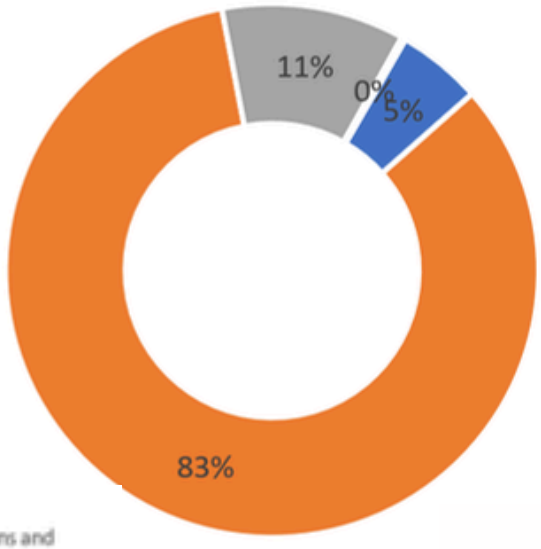
In 2025/26, St Nicks has continued to grow in income: we saw an increase from £789,347 in 2024/25 to £818,854 this financial year. Our total expenditure amounted to £784,678, compared to £774,759 in 2024/25. This resulted in a surplus of £34,176 in 2025/26, an increase from £14,588 surplus in 2024/25. This surplus is essential in keeping our reserves figures relative to the increased size of the organisation.

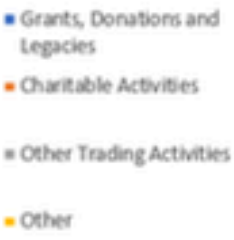
As always, we are grateful to our funding partners, supporters, members, volunteers and our incredible staff team for what has been a hugely successful year for St Nicks.

2024/25



2025/26





Thank you to our key supporters

Better Connect
Brelms Trust
City of York Council
Ed de Nunzio Trust
Environment Agency
Ernest Cook Trust
Hey Smile Foundation
Joseph Rowntree Foundation
National Lottery Awards for All
Neighbourly
North Yorkshire Police Fire and Crime Commissioner
Purey Cust Trust
River Foss Society
Stockholm Environment Institute
Tansy Beetle Action Group
Two Ridings Community Foundation
University of York
York Cares
York CVS
York & N. Yorkshire Combined Authority
Active Travel Fund
York St John University
Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust
Yorkshire Water

Organisations donating funds or other support:
York CVS
GoodGym
CYC Guildhall Ward Committee
CYC Heworth Ward Committee
CYC Hull Road Ward Committee
Natural England Species Recovery Fund
North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre
The National Lottery Community Fund
The National Lottery Heritage Fund
UK Research and Innovation

Looking ahead

Areas of focus for 2026/27 and future aspirations

Our Environment Centre continues to be a priority for us moving forwards. Having now secured planning permission for our ambitious project, we want to look to 26/27 to focus on technical detail and sustainability measures, ensuring that we are leading by example and that our building is a key community resource. Looking into 2026/27, we will be exploring opportunities to source capital investment in this project.

25/26 was the final year for some of our larger grants. We will be focussing on further diversifying our income in 26/27 to allow us to sustain our provision and continue to deliver for our communities. We will be using this opportunity to re-design our nature based wellbeing programme to ensure that it is fit for purpose and meets the needs of diverse communities.

We will be looking at our three year strategy in the next year. Over the past few years, our organisation has organically grown and developed and we want to make sure that we have a strategy that is fit for the future of St Nicks.



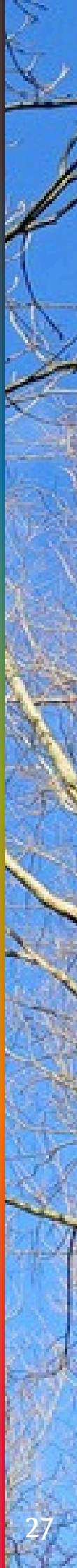
Friends of St Nicholas Fields

(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Trustees Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ended

31st March 2026

outsource



Friends of St Nicholas Fields

(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Contents

Index	Page
Annual Report of the Trustees	1
Independent Examiners Report	29
Statement of Financial Activities	30
Balance Sheet	31
Statement of Cash flows	32
Notes to the Accounts	33

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

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

for the year ended **31st March 2026** which are set out on pages 25 to 37

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

   have not been met; or

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



Date: 29.10.2026

Friends of St Nicholas Fields

(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended: 31 March 2026

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2026	Total 2025
Income and endowments from:		£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	3.1	50,623	-	50,623	23,301
Charitable activities	3.2	235,690	485,071	720,761	714,479
Other trading activities	3.3	43,454	-	43,454	42,352
Investments	3.4	4,016	-	4,016	8,701
Other	3.5	-	-	-	514
Total income	3	333,783	485,071	818,854	789,347
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4.1	-	40	40	232
Charitable activities	4.2	296,326	488,312	784,638	774,527
Total expenditure	4	296,326	488,352	784,678	774,759
Net income/(expenditure)		37,457	- 3,281	34,176	14,588
Gross transfers between funds		3,806	(3,806)	-	-
Net movement in funds		41,263	(7,087)	34,176	14,588
Total funds brought forward		184,300	261,262	445,562	430,974
Total funds carried forward		225,563	254,175	479,738	445,562

Friends of St Nicholas Fields

(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Balance Sheet as at: 31st March 2026

	Note	2026	2025
Fixed assets		£	£
Tangible assets	7	304,810	303,698
Total fixed assets		**304,810**	**303,698**
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	8	205,223	178,887
Debtors & prepayments	9	85,911	55,139
Stock		-	-
Total current assets		**291,134**	**234,026**
Current liabilities: amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors and accruals	10	(116,206)	(92,162)
Net current assets		**174,928**	**141,864**
Net Assets		**479,738**	**445,562**
Funds of the Charity	11		
Unrestricted Funds (General)		225,563	184,300
Restricted Funds		254,175	261,262
Total Funds Carried Forward	11	**479,738**	**445,562**

-

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on: 17/08/2026

And signed on their behalf by:

Marina Lambrakis, Co-Chair of Trustees

Friends of St Nicholas Fields

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended: 31st March 2026

	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	34,176	14,588
Add: Depreciation for the year	5,912	4,645
Working capital changes		
(Increase)/decrease in stock	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(30,772)	12,994
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	24,044	1,325
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	**33,360**	**33,552**
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	7,024	9,551
Disposal of fixed assets	-	-
	7,024	**9,551**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	26,336	24,001
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2025	178,887	154,886
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2026	**205,223**	**178,887**

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Notes to the accounts for the year ended: 31st March 2026

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
Comparative figures for the year ended 31st March 2025 have been restated to reclassify £28,257 of income from other trading activities to charitable activities. The reclassification has been made to better reflect the nature of the income and improve consistency of presentation. There is no effect on the total income.

2 Accounting policies

Income and endowments

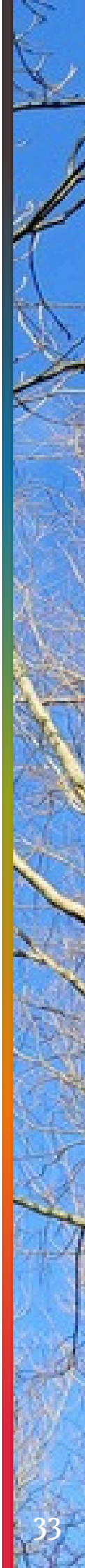
Recognition of income
These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:
- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- receipt of the resources is probable; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

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

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

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

Investment income
This is included in the accounts when receivable.



Expenditure and Liabilities

Expenditure

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

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

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

Assets

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Notes to the accounts for the year ended: 31 March 2026

3 Income and endowments

	2026 Unrestricted funds £	2026 Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
3.1 Donations and legacies						
Donations	23,284	-	23,284	14,281	-	14,281
Grants	26,272	-	26,272	8,674	-	8,674
Membership fees	1,067	-	1,067	346	-	346
	50,623	**-**	**50,623**	**23,301**	**-**	**23,301**
3.2 Charitable activities						
Grants	-	485,071	485,071	-	469,380	469,380
Recycling scheme	156,154	-	156,154	151,491	-	151,491
Recycling credits	15,076	-	15,076	18,206	-	18,206
Local Nature Reserve SLA	23,008	-	23,008	23,008	-	23,008
Educational events	2,629	-	2,629	3,913	-	3,913
Habitat contract work	-		-	16,324		16,324
Habitat sales	38,823		38,823	28,257		28,257
Open University - Branching out	-	-	-	3,900	-	3,900
	235,690	**485,071**	**720,761**	**245,099**	**469,380**	**714,479**
3.3 Other trading activities						
Educational, lettings & rentals	3,182	-	3,182	2,341	-	2,341
General sales	793	-	793	160	-	160
Business waste sales	39,479	-	39,479	39,851	-	39,851
	43,454	**-**	**43,454**	**42,352**	**-**	**42,352**
3.4 Investments						
Bank interest	4,016	-	4,016	8,701	-	8,701
	4,016	**-**	**4,016**	**8,701**	**-**	**8,701**
3.5 Other						
Other sundry income	-	-	-	514	-	514
	-	**-**	**-**	**514**	**-**	**514**
Total income	**333,783**	**485,071**	**818,854**	**319,967**	**469,380**	**789,347**

4 Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025 £
4.1 Raising funds						
Marketing & publicity costs			-		-	-
Purchases for resale	-	40	40	232	-	232
	-	40	40	232	-	232
4.2 Charitable activities						
Salaries	221,956	345,453	567,409	224,773	299,077	523,850
Staff training & other costs	577	1,602	2,179	2,923	4,061	6,984
Volunteer training & other costs	-	247	247	378	36	414
Rent & rates	466	296	762	380	193	573
Utilities	1,352	862	2,214	1,643	835	2,478
Cleaning, repairs & renewals	11,353	7,219	18,572	2,306	1,017	3,323
Health and safety & security	2,072	491	2,563	954	485	1,439
Telephone, IT & communications	9,216	5,667	14,883	10,289	3,854	14,143
Postage & stationery	1,494	974	2,468	1,745	990	2,735
Insurance	14,159	5,042	19,201	14,567	3,946	18,513
Memberships & subscriptions	1,134	723	1,857	1,174	596	1,770
Legal & professional fees	-	-	-	2,074	1,054	3,128
Resources & equipment	2,458	1,163	3,621	3,984	3,517	7,501
Project support	0	-	-	2,818	20,320	23,138
Other project costs	12,480	107,341	119,821	17,880	121,515	139,395
Accountancy fees	13,044	8,310	21,354	12,089	6,143	18,232
Bank charges	173	136	309	312	158	470
Event costs	731	453	1,184	1,689	-	1,689
Sundry expenses	50	32	82	1	18	19
Bad debts & balances wrtten off	-	-	-	88	-	88
Depreciation	3,611	2,301	5,912	3,080	1,565	4,645
	296,326	488,312	784,638	305,147	469,380	774,527
Total expenditure	296,326	488,352	784,678	305,379	469,380	774,759

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

	2026	2025
	£	£
Independent Examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	1,350	1,350

6 Staff costs and emoluments

6.1 Staff costs

	2026	2025
	£	£
Gross salaries	510,739	483,625
Employers National Insurance	46,093	30,585
Pension contributions	10,577	9,640
	567,409	523,850

6.2 Average number of full time equivalent employees by department

	2026	2025
Fundraising	1.00	1.00
Charitable activities	13.41	13.41
Governance	1.00	1.00
Other	2.00	2.00
Total	17.41	17.41

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

7 Fixed assets

2026	Leasehold Environment £	Office equipment £	General equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
7.1 Cost or valuation					
Balance b/fwd	324,111	-	19,447	-	343,558
Additions		-	7,024	-	7,024
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance c/fwd	324,111	-	26,471	-	350,582
Depreciation					
Balance b/fwd	36,123	-	3,737	-	39,860
Charge for year	3,806	-	2,106	-	5,912
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance c/fwd	39,929	-	5,843	-	45,772
Net book value					
31 March 2026	284,182	-	20,628	-	304,810

2025	Leasehold Environment £	Office equipment £	General equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
Balance b/fwd	324,111	-	9,896	-	334,007
Additions	-	-	9,551	-	9,551

Balance c/fwd	**324,111**	**-**	**19,447**	**-**	**343,558**
Depreciation					
Balance b/fwd	32,740	-	2,474	-	35,214
Charge for year	3,383	-	1,263	-	4,646
Balance c/fwd	**36,123**	**-**	**3,737**	**-**	**39,860**
Net book value					
31 March 2024	**287,988**	**-**	**15,710**	**-**	**303,698**

8 Cash at bank and in hand

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2026 £	2025 £
CAF Cash account	53,545	-	53,545	46,766
CAF Gold account	61,682	-	61,682	25,236
Go cardless	(96)	-	(96)	(81)
Flagstone Group Ltd	88,727		88,727	106,006
PayPal account	-	-	-	-
Soldo	1,084	-	1,084	940
Other cash in hand	281	-	281	20
	205,223	**-**	**205,223**	**178,887**

9 Debtors and prepayments

Debtors and prepayments		2026 £	2025 £
Trade debtors		32,952	26,519
Other debtors		739	415
Prepayments and accrued income		52,220	28,205
	Total	**85,911**	**55,139**

10 Creditors and accruals

Amounts falling due within one year		2026 £	2025 £
Trade creditors		6,351	19,908
Other creditors		10,219	202
Accruals and deferred income		91,183	63,508
Tax and social security		8,453	8,544
	Total	**116,206**	**92,162**

11 Movement of funds

11.1 Movement of major funds

2026 Fund name	**Balance b/fwd**	**Incoming resources**	**Outgoing resources**	**Transfers**	**Balance c/fwd**
Unrestricted funds (General)					
General unrestricted funds	184,300	333,783	296,324	(15,711)	206,048
Nature sessions	-	-	2	19,517	19,515
	184,300	**333,783**	**296,324**	**3,806**	**225,563**
Restricted funds					
Environment Centre	257,981	-	-	(3,806)	254,175
Grants Waste minimisation					
Precious plastic	3,281		3,281	-	-
Grants Green Spaces					
Climate Action Fund	-	117,008	117,008	-	-
YPIP	-	71,020	71,020	-	-

National lottery heritage	-	92,812	92,812	-	-
Grants Nature & wellbeing					
Community Mental Health Transformation (CMHT)	-	17,630	17,630		
Global Make Some Noise	-	32,310	32,310		
HAF	-	7,705	7,705		
National lottery community fund	-	133,060	133,060	-	-
PFCC	-	11,347	11,347		
Purey Cust	-	579	579		
Ward Funding	-	1,600	1,600	-	-
	261,262	**485,071**	**488,352**	**(3,806)**	**254,175**
Total Funds	**445,562**	**818,854**	**784,676**	**-**	**479,738**

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

11.2 Details of Funds Held

Unrestricted Funds (General)
The General fund is unrestricted and available for the general purposes of the Organisation.

Unrestricted Funds (Designated)

To use in Sessions nature reserve for its upkeep and improving connected habitat.

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

Environment Centre

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

Precious plastic

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

Climate Action Fund

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

YPIP

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

National lottery heritage

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

Community Mental Health Transformation (CMHT)

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

Global Make Some Noise

Funding to increase capacity in ecotherapy provision - to provide additional mentoring staff hours and facilitator time for group activities.

HAF

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

National lottery community fund

NLCF funding for 3-year period May 2023-2026 to fund the Ecotherapy programme.

PFCC

PFCC funding is to pilot a project to engage young people in outdoor activities and reduce levels of antisocial behaviour on the local nature reserve and local area.

Purey Cust

Funding to provide access costs for ecotherapy participants who otherwise would not be able to access support.

Ward Funding

Warm spaces fund to provide hot meals and a warm space for group activity during the winter months.

12 Net assets between funds

Balances at 31st March 2026	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £
Fixed assets	50,635	254,175	304,810
Current assets	291,134	-	291,134
Current liabilities	(116,206)	-	(116,206)
	225,563	**254,175**	**479,738**

Balances at 31st March 2025	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £
Fixed assets	45,717	257,981	303,698
Current assets	230,745	3,281	234,026
Current liabilities	(92,163)	-	(92,162)
	184,299	**261,262**	**445,562**



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Cover & back photo credit: Ecotherapy 'Discover Nature' group participants

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The Green Heart of York