



March - June 2006

News from St. Nicks

Membership helps pay for the production of this newsletter and other projects. It costs £2 per year.

Another three months have gone by in a jiffy and it looks like spring is almost here. The sun has been shining on our newly refurbished play area (see below) which we hope will keep children happy and entertained for years to come. Our recycling scheme keeps on expanding, with the latest addition being the Heslington Road area. During 2005 St. Nicks Community Recycling Team collected more than 161 tonnes of recyclable materials from a growing number of households (over 3,000 today). As you will see, we are looking for a new member of our recycling team so if you've always wanted to try driving our "Yellow Peril" (electric vehicle), don't miss your chance! We are also always looking for volunteers to help us around the Nature Reserve and the Centre – if you can, join our Eco-Active Days (see overleaf) or contact us to discuss other options.

Because we are ever so busy with our daily work, it is sometimes easy to forget why we are here and where we are heading. Therefore we are having two visioning and planning sessions in March (see overleaf) and we would very much appreciate your views. Please help us decide what the future should hold for St. Nicks by filling in the attached questionnaire. Even if you cannot meet the deadline, we would still love to hear from you. Thank you all for your continued support.

RECYCLE YOUR YELLOW PAGES

People often ask us if we can recycle phone directories. While our answer is currently "no", there is some good news. The council has been given a grant to place special recycling banks for Yellow Pages between the end of February and 18th April at the household recycling centres (Foss Islands Road, Towthorpe and Beckfield Lane). All the old directories collected will be recycled into paper by Blackburns Waste Disposal.

RECYCLING OFFICER WANTED

We are looking for an enthusiastic person to join our community recycling team to carry out kerbside collections in York. We offer: a part time post, 28 hours per week, £9,580 pa. We require: commitment to recycling and a clean driving licence. If you are interested, please contact John Brierley on (01904) 411821 or send him an email to <john@stnicksfields.org.uk> or drop in to the York Environmental Community Centre.



Closing date: Mon. 13th March



Installation of the new play equipment.

ST. NICKS PLAY AREA TRANSFORMED

At last, our play area has been reinstated to its former glory by local installer Danby's Playscheme. It took more than a year to raise the money needed for the refurbishment but the wait was well worth it. There is a lot of exciting new equipment including logwalk, ramps and balance beams. There are also two new picnic benches designed to accommodate wheelchair users. Come try it all out - if you're planning a family picnic, why not have it at St. Nicks?

Friends of St. Nicholas Fields, registered charity no. 1068909, is supported by the City of York Council.

Friends of St. Nicholas Fields
York Environmental Community Centre
Bull Lane, York YO10 3EN
tel./ fax: (01904) 411821

www.stnicksfields.org.uk

general enquiries: info@stnicksfields.org.uk

composting advice: rotters@stnicksfields.org.uk

recycling: recycling@stnicksfields.org.uk



ECO-ACTIVE DAYS 2006

We have had four Eco-Active (volunteer action) Days so far and they are proving very popular and productive. On 4th February we had almost 40 people involved clearing rubbish from the nature reserve and putting woodchip down on paths. A big thank you to everyone who has helped. There is lots more work to be done so if you would like to get involved, please see the Future Events for more dates.

YORK ROTTERS UPDATE

Funding: The York Rotters scheme continues to grow and we now have over 60 volunteers involved with the project. They have been busy helping York residents get started with home composting and we have now advised over 1500 residents. As recognition of the valuable role York Rotters plays in minimising waste generation, the City of York Council has agreed to fund the scheme for the period April 2006 – March 2007.



GET INSPIRED...

Meanwood Valley Urban Farm, Leeds

Because we are looking into installing a reed bed to deal with the grey (and yellow!) waters from the Centre, two staff members went to see a reedbed at the Meanwood Valley Urban Farm. They were impressed not only with the reed bed but also with the EpiCentre which is a state of the art sustainable education centre. It is in many ways very similar to our Environmental Centre but it's bigger and better equipped. There are interesting exhibitions and interactive displays on various environmental issues including energy and recycling. There are also lots of things to see around the farm: e.g. nature area, ponds, bird feeding station, goat stable, gardens, organic market, greenhouse, plus all the usual farm animals.

It is an inspiring place and we hope to adapt some of their ideas for St. Nicks. It's only a 15min bus ride away from the Centre of Leeds on Sugar Well Rd. For more information tel. (0113) 262 9759 or see <www.wwf-leeds.org.uk/FarmHome.html>.

New Compost Bin Offer: The City of York Council will be offering large compost bins (330 litres) at the low price of £6 including delivery. To take advantage of this offer call Blackwall on 0870 849 4866. York Rotters are selling-at cost- kitchen caddies (£3) and 'fabric' compost bins (£8) suitable for yards as well as small gardens.

More info/advice: contact Keely on tel. 411821 or <rotters@stnicksfields.org.uk>.

FUTURE EVENTS

Unless stated otherwise event or meeting location is always the York Environmental Community Centre. Check our website or call us for more information and more events which are currently in the pipeline.

ST. NICKS VISIONING & STRATEGY DAYS

Sunday 12th March, 10-4pm - a few spaces left for members
What is the future of St. Nicks? What can we do better? Please help us decide. See the attached questionnaire for more details and please contact us if you are interested in coming along.

ECO-ACTIVE DAYS

Fancy a bit of exercise whilst doing something useful outdoors, followed by home-made soup and bread for lunch? This is just the thing. Join us on:

- * Sat. 4th March, 10-1pm - tree pruning
- * Tue. 21st March, 11-4pm - tree planting
- * Sat. 1st April, 10-1pm - tree planting
- * Wed. 19th April, 11-4pm
- * Sat. 6th May, 10-1pm
- * Thu. 18th May, 11-4pm
- * Mon. 19th June, 11-4pm
- * Sat. 1st July, 10-1pm

Contact us for more details nearer a particular date.

BIG RECYCLE DAY

Saturday 3rd June, 1-5pm - details to be confirmed

Day of fun activities for all ages: sustainability and recycling activities, give or take waste exchange, music, refreshments and lots more.