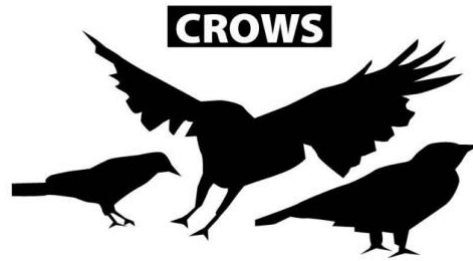


Community Rights of Way Service



2023 – 2024 review

Some highlights of the year

Most of our work involved small jobs that had been reported by the general public, but we also completed a few milestones: e.g.

- We made several improvements on the **Pennine Way** that were identified by Natural England.
- The **Todmorden Moor Geology trail** had deteriorated and was completely refurbished with new waymarks and boardwalks. CROWS is helping to get this fascinating walk re-published.
- Waymarks on the **Calderdale Way** were renewed and the current set of directions checked. CROWS has helped with the publication on the [Heart of the Pennines](#) website.
- Significant repair work was carried out on the popular **riverside path in Cragg Vale**. The work included replacing two bridges at Castle Gate Dam which had become unsafe. Thanks go to Hebden Royd Town Council for funding this work.
- We have repaired and improved the routes for a new **3 Walks Around Pecket Well leaflet** produced by Friends of Calderdale Countryside.
- The large flight of steps above **Scaitcliffe Woods leading to Flailcroft** was rebuilt with a grant from the Todmorden Wind Farm.
- We celebrated our 10th anniversary!

Over 900 days were worked by volunteers. We have continued working three days a week (in nearly all weathers).

Where we worked





Exploring a bog on Langfield Common.



Tree removal below Lumbutts - thanks Ian.



New finger post at Dicks Lane, Erringden.



Bridge replacement in Cragg Vale.



Very wet stile building at Cornholme.



Fitting a gate at Old Town.



Mudlarking in Mytholmroyd.



A lovely day for bridge building at Gaddings.



Waymarking above Lydgate.



Widening steps at Mill Bank.



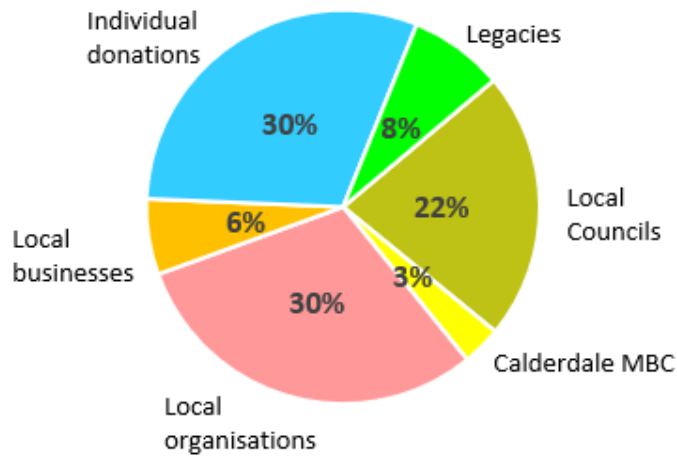
New steps at Wainstalls.



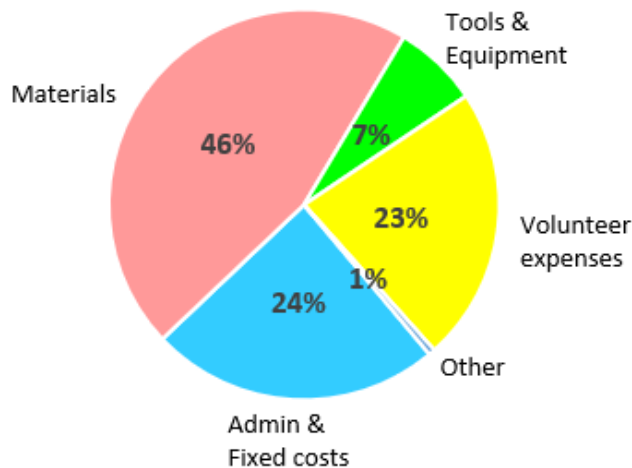
Smart revetments on Midgley Moor.

Funding and Finance

2023-24 Income £26,568



2023-24 Expenditure £23,598



Our funding group developed our funding policy. We aim not to be over reliant on public funds and last year we achieved a good balance.

- **Local councils** again generously supported our work.
- **Individual donations** increased, with a significant number of people opting to use [Just Giving](#).
- We had more donations from **local community groups and user groups**.
- Donations from **local businesses** increased.
- We received several donations from the '**legacies**' of local path users.

Thanks

We try to respond to funders and donors as best we can, but we would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their financial support last year:

12th Halifax Sea Scouts
Blackshaw Parish Council
Blackshaw Head Fell race
Calder Valley Fell Runners
Calderdale Council Highways
Calderdale Long Distance Walkers
Calderdale Ramblers
Cornholme Wreath Makers
Friends of Calderdale Countryside
Friends of Nutclough
Hebden Royd Town Council
HEC contractors (Mytholmroyd)
Heptonstall Fell Race
Heptonstall Parish Council
Little Box Consulting (Luddenden)
Luddendenfoot Ward Forum
Midgley Community Forum
Natural England (Pennine Way & Pennine Bridleway)

Old Town Post Office Shop
Pennine Heritage
Ramble Worldwide Outdoor Trust
Ripponden Parish Council
Ripponden Ward Forum
Sowerby Residents
Todmorden Harriers
Todmorden Town Council
Todmorden Wind Farm (through CFFC)
Todwalkers
Wadsworth Parish Council
Wadsworth Walking Market
Legacies or donations from family and friends of:

Robert Harker

Gerald Hardwick

Tim Mihailovik

And the many people who gave us donations - direct or through Just Giving.

Thanks for in-kind help

We rely on local businesses and individuals to sustain our work, in particular:

- Mountain Wild for flying the CROWS flag and donating Tech-Wash so we stay cleaner.
- CALVAG for always delivering wherever and whenever we need them.
- Ian Clarkson for dealing with fallen trees - often at short notice.
- Calderdale Council Highways for advice and guidance.
- Amy Gault from SPLAT for helping us to keep ourselves safe.
- Ian Whitehead at Calder Computers who keeps our IT systems going and helps us when something goes wrong.
- Angela Wright for the meticulous checking of our accounts.
- Dylan Wilbey for helping us with our social media.
- The Dusty Miller, Mytholmroyd, for hosting our meetings.
- Keith Devine who has designed several new waymarks.
- Pennine Signs who printed a new set of waymarks at short notice.
- James Lumb for his advice and assistance on bridge building.
- Nigel Peterson-White at The Luddenden Gardener for the donation of a range of very useful power tools.
- Steve Blacksmith, for help with our environmental audit and review.
- Everyone who took the time to make reports to our website.
- All the landowners who have allowed us to work on their land and provided advice, practical help and funding.

Publicity

- [Our website](#) has been upgraded and is now updated regularly. About 5,000 users visited the site during the year.
- [Our Blog](#) forms a unique public record of our work and was visited over 12,000 times during the year.
- [Our Facebook page](#) had 3000 regular followers, shared with 30 local and recreational groups.

Improving the way we work

We all joined CROWS to improve rights-of-way, but to do that we need an infrastructure to support the work. To be sustainable, we have continued to share the organisational workload.

This year:

- We improved our induction process for new volunteers.
- The Ryburn team was expanded and reformed. We hope to have access to a sub-depot in Ripponden which will help us to increase the amount of work we can do in the Ryburn area.
- We completed a review of our safety policies and procedures.
- We expanded our ability to deal with fallen trees (thanks to Highways' funding).
- We improved our systems for financial monitoring.
- We developed a clearer policy on waymarking.
- We took a good look at our environmental impact and changed some of our practices.
- We obtained registered charity status and have an enthusiastic group of trustees who understand our aims and can monitor our progress.

Plans for 2024/25

- Installing new finger posts at key junctions.
- Dealing with problems on the Calderdale Way identified from the recent re-waymarking exercise.
- Working with Calderdale Highways to respond to some of the problems identified from their 2023 Rights of Way survey.
- Establishing a depot in Ripponden and expanding the amount of Ryburn work.
- Responding to reports of encroaching vegetation, muddy paths, unclear waymarking, dodgy stiles, broken gates, sagging boardwalks and rotting revetments - the list goes on!