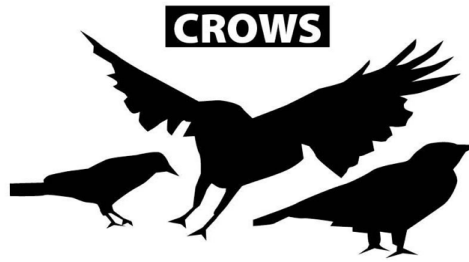


Community Rights of Way Service



2024 – 2025 review

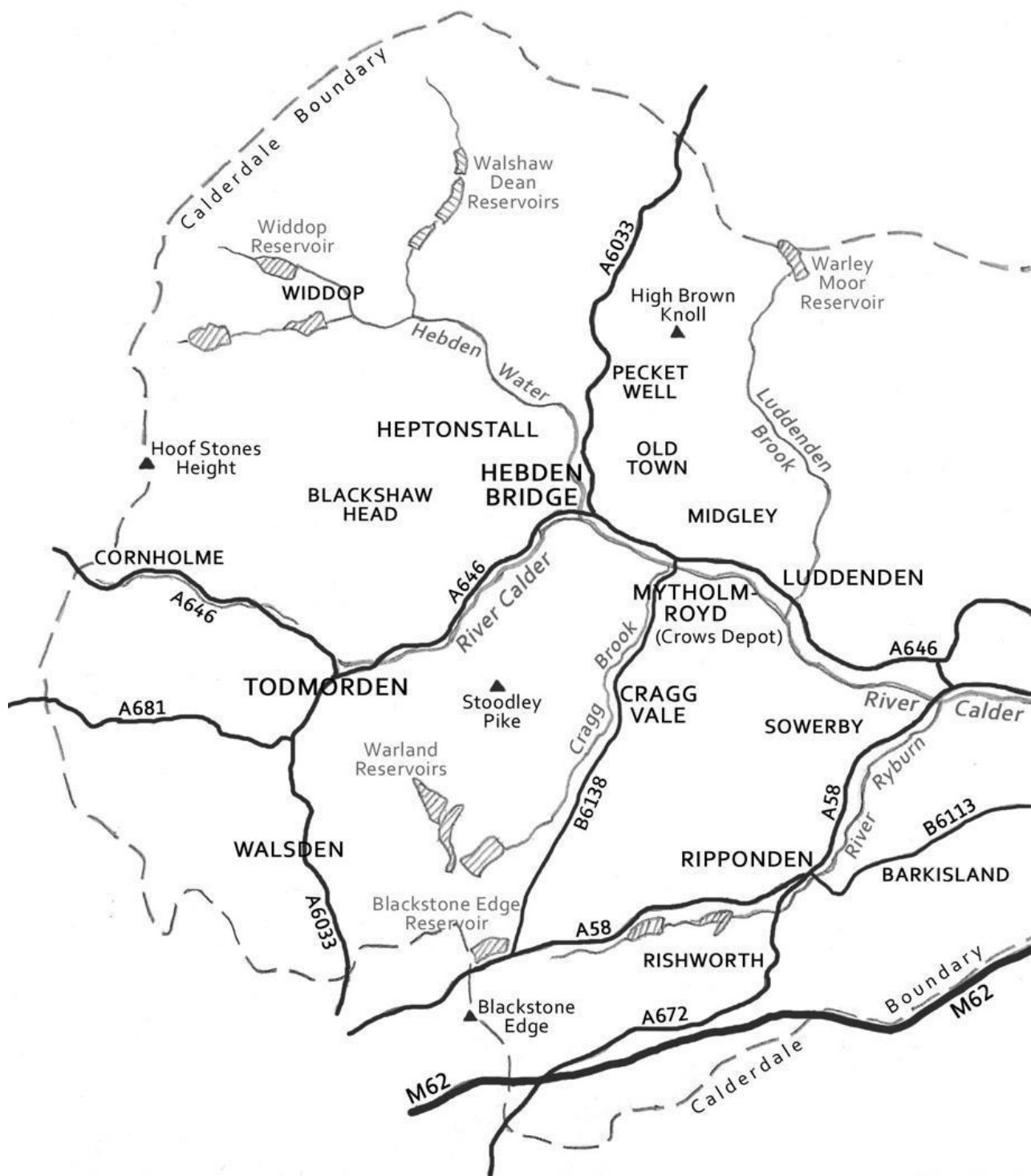
Some highlights of the year

Most of our work involved jobs that had been reported by the general public, but we also worked on some long term projects: e.g.

- A bridge was installed to create a safe route over a large area of very wet peat bog on the causey path between Gaddings Dam and Warland Reservoir.
- The Todmorden Moor Geology Trail upgrades were completed and this fascinating walk is now re-published on [Heart of the Pennines website](#).
- We completed the repair of steps, bridges and the crumbling edges on the popular Hebden Bridge riverside paths around Foster Dam.
- The ancient stone packhorse bridge at Blackshaw Head was rebuilt for future generations to enjoy.
- The Walking routes around Luddenden Valley produced by the Luddenden Conservation Society have been waymarked, repaired and improved.
- All the stone steps were cleared and several new wooden steps were installed on the path from Heptonstall down to Midgehole. There is more to do, but we are well on the way.
- The paths around the Dodd Naze estate in Hebden Bridge were rescued from encroaching vegetation with a local plan for their continued upkeep.
- Two new bridges were installed over the Colden (below Egypt) and over Ramsden Clough, above Walsden.
- Six new finger-posts were installed across the area.
- The popular riverside path at Ripponden was refurbished.

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

Where we worked





Uncovering causey stones in Cragg Vale.



Removing a fallen tree near Hebden Bridge.



Getting down to it in Wadsworth.



A new bridge in Colden.



Opening a new path in Luddenden.



Drainage work on a causey path at Whirlaw.



Sorting a flooded path on the Pennine Way.



Restored packhorse bridge at Blackshaw Head.



Scraping the Ripponden riverside path.



Securing a path edge at Midgley.

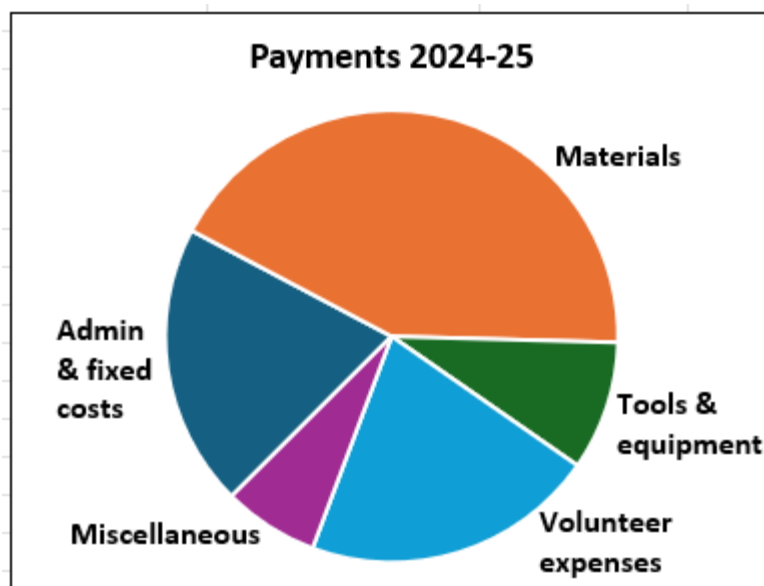
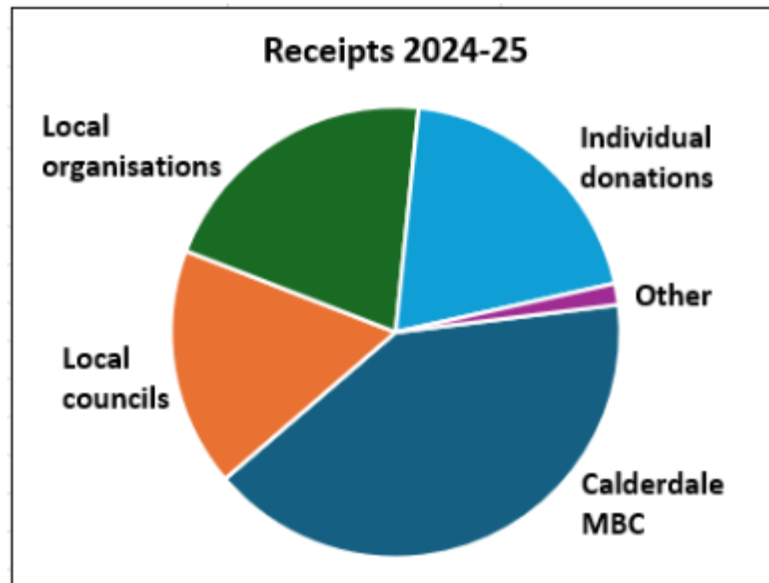


New steps at Foster Dam, Hebden Bridge.



A new finger-post at Blackshaw Head.

Funding and Finance



Our funding group developed our funding policy. We aim not to be over reliant on public funds and last year we feel that 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**.
- 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	Midgley Village Shop
Blackshaw Parish Council	Natural England (Pennine Way & Pennine Bridleway)
Blackshaw Head Fell Race	Old Town Post Office Shop
Calder Valley Fell Runners	Ramble Worldwide Outdoor Trust
Calderdale Council Highways	Ripponden Parish Council
Calderdale Long Distance Walkers	Ripponden Ward Forum
Calderdale Ramblers	Sowerby Residents
Cornholme Wreath Makers	Todmorden Harriers
Fox & Goose customers	Todmorden Town Council
Friends of Calderdale Countryside	Todmorden Wind Farm (through CFFC)
Friends of Nutclough	Todwalkers
Hebden Royd Town Council	Top Brink customers
HEC contractors (Mytholmroyd)	Upper Stoodley Residents Association
Heptonstall Fell Race	Wadsworth Parish Council
Heptonstall Parish Council	Wadsworth Walking Market
Luddendenfoot Ward Forum	
Midgley Community Forum	

And the many people who gave us anonymous donations either directly 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. Sue's support for CROWS will be sadly missed.
- 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 support, 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 Wilby and Graham Ramsden for helping us with our social media.
- The Dusty Miller, Mytholmroyd, for hosting our meetings.
- Keith Devine for designing several new waymarks.
- Pennine Signs for printing waymarks for us at short notice.
- Steve Blacksmith, for help with our environmental audit and review.
- Andrew Barker for assisting with getting timber and tools to a remote work site on Langfield Common.
- Rosie at Natural Endings for helping us develop 'Collections in Memory'.
- 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 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 500 times a month during the year.
- [Our Facebook page](#) now has 3600 regular followers, with posts also shared with 30 local and recreational groups.
- We produced a new promotional leaflet to publicise our work and to hand out at events.

Improving the way we are organised

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 recruited five new volunteers and our waiting list is reducing.
- The Ryburn team was reformed and expanded. We have set up a sub-depot in Ripponden which, thanks to Ward Forum funding, has helped us to increase the amount of work we can do in the Ryburn area.
- We carried out a complete review of our first aid equipment and procedures.
- Our new treasurer has streamlined our financial systems.
- As a small part of minimising our environmental impact, we introduced battery-powered brush cutters.
- Following our achieving charitable status, we agreed to implement new policies recommended by the Charity Commission on dealing with complaints and organisational risks.

Plans for 2025 - 26

- We will complete the refurbishment and waymarking of the Ripponden riverside path.
- We will expand our work in the Ryburn and Luddenden areas.
- With Calderdale Highways, we will improve waymarking of paths leading off public roadsides.
- We will develop a response to requests from friends and families who wish to donate to CROWS in memory of a loved one.
- We will continue responding to reports of encroaching vegetation, muddy paths, unclear waymarking, dodgy stiles, broken gates, sagging boardwalks and rotting revetments - the list goes on!