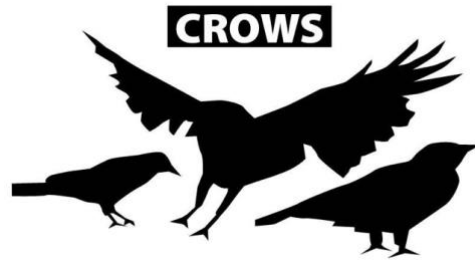


Community Rights of Way Service



2025 – 2026 review

Some highlights of the year

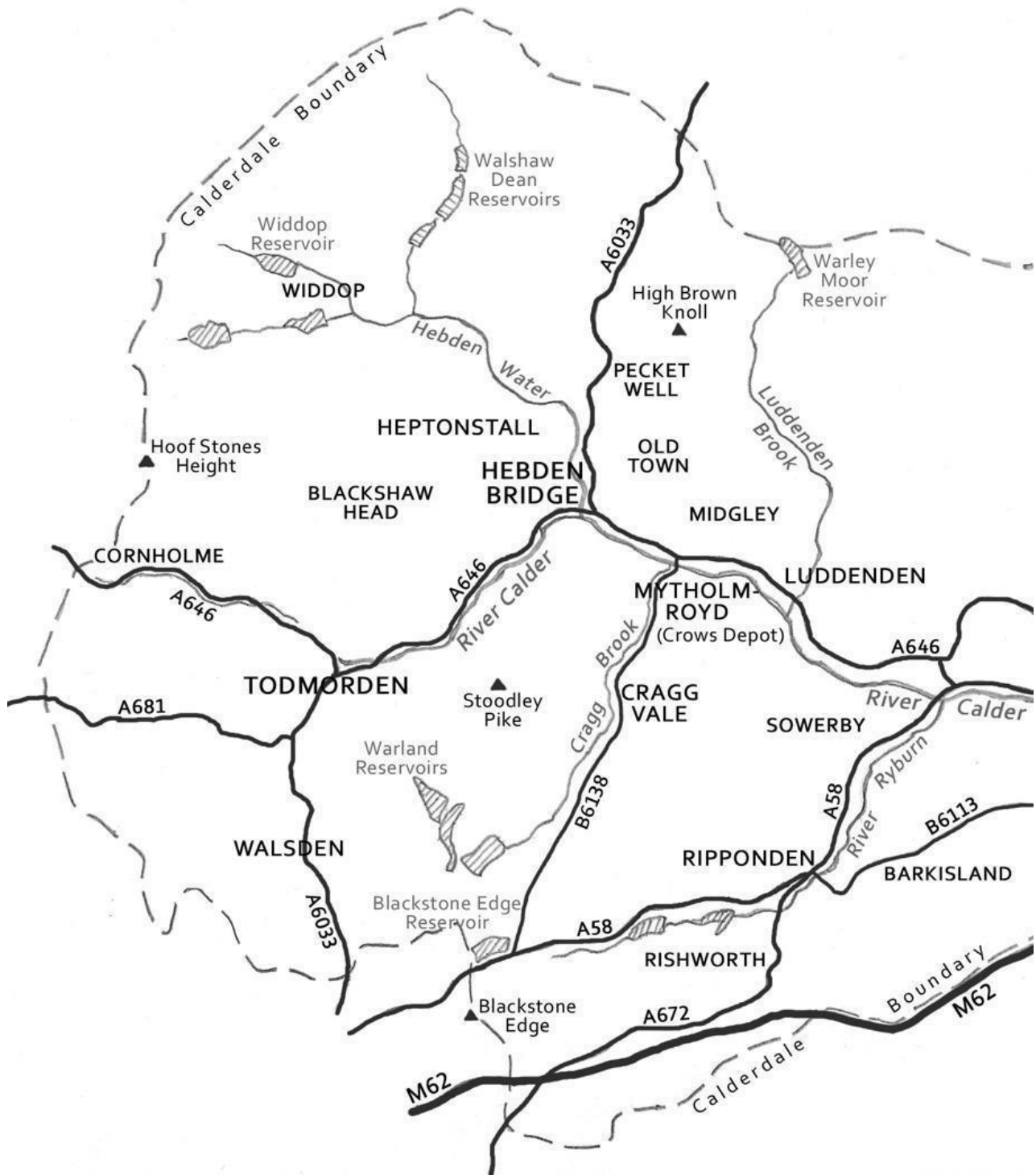
Most of our work involved jobs that had been reported by the general public, but we also worked on some long-term projects:

- Many issues were sorted on a series of paths through woodlands from Ripponden to Longley.
- On the [Todmorden Moor Geology Trail](#) we replaced boardwalks, added new waymark posts and refurbished the information boards. We republished a new walk leaflet covering the trail.
- The Ripponden to Rishworth Riverside path upgrades and waymarking were completed and this lovely walk is now published on [Heart of the Pennines website](#).
- The access to Pecket Well playground was improved by dealing with drainage and adding in some steps.
- We completed the refurbishment of the steps on the Calderdale Way down to Hebble Hole bridge.
- A significant amount of work has been carried out in and around Ryburn, particularly on the riverside path and in Rough Hey wood.
- [A Walk around Luddenden Dean](#) was walked out, rewritten and re-published. Waymarking, drainage and other problems on the whole route were sorted.
- We worked with Jim Jarrett, the author of the [Fielden Trail](#), to revise the route directions and improve the waymarking. Work on this trail will continue this year.

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

Sadly, we lost one of our volunteers this year. Frank Sharman brought incisiveness, thoughtfulness and kindness to CROWS tasks and an ability to solve complex drainage problems! He will be very much missed by us.

Where we worked





Steps in Hebden Bridge.



New marker post above Todmorden



Revetment in Luddenden.



Surveying and waymarking in Blackshawhead.



Boardwalk at Gaddings.



Stile at Nab End.



Drainage on Langfield Common.



Information board in Hardcastle Crag.



Bridge repair at Blake Dean.



Drainage at Withens Clough.

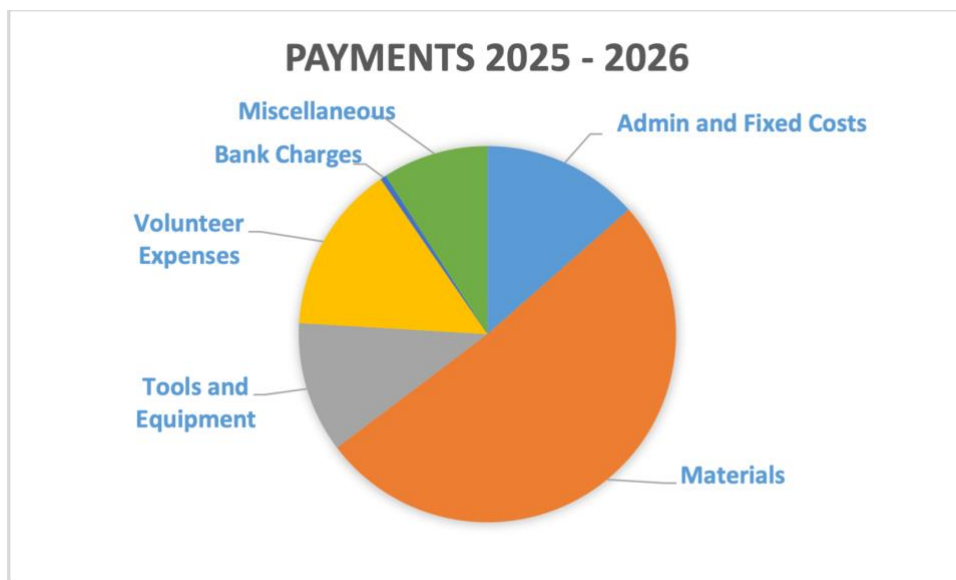
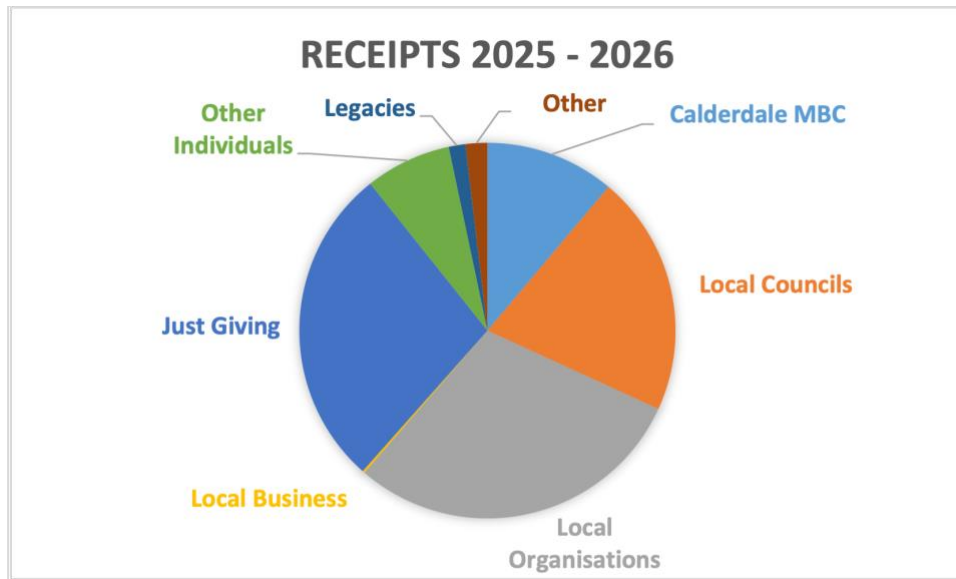


Path clearance at Longley Lane, Ryburn.



Dog gate on Hurst Road.

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 of sources.

- **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.
- **Calderdale Council Highways** continued their support for our work.

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	Natural England
Active Calderdale	(Pennine Way & Pennine Bridleway)
Blackshaw Parish Council	Old Town Post Office Shop
Blackshaw Head Fell Race	Picture This
Calder Valley Fell Runners	Ramble Worldwide Outdoor Trust
Calderdale Council Highways	Reaps Moss Wind Farm
Calderdale Long Distance Walkers	Ripponden Parish Council
Calderdale Ramblers	Ripponden Ward Forum
Cornholme Wreath Makers	Russell family
Cragg Vale Community Association	Ryburn Bash
Friends of Calderdale Countryside	Todmorden Harriers
Haworth Hobble	Todmorden Town Council
Hebden Royd Town Council	Todmorden Ward Forum
Heptonstall Fell Race	Todmorden Wind Farm (through CFFC)
Heptonstall Parish Council	Todwalkers
Luudenden Mayors fund	Upper Stoodley Residents' Association
Midgley Community Forum	Wadsworth Parish Council
Midgley Village Shop	Yorkshire Veterans Association

Thanks also to 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:

- 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 information boards and waymarks.
- Pennine Signs for printing waymarks and information boards for us, often at short notice.
- 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 completely rebuilt. Over 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 leaflet about 'Collections in Memory'.
- We had some great coverage of our work in Ripponden in the BBC Countryfile magazine

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 have reorganised our recruitment and induction process.
- We now have a group of volunteers that is able to upload videos to our Facebook page.
- We upgraded our risk assessment process as part of a periodic review of our safety policies.
- We trained 11 people in 'out-doors first aid'.
- We developed a system for tracking the progress of jobs in Ripponden.

Plans for 2026 - 2027

- CROWS has grown in size over the last few years so we now need to review how we co-ordinate, organise and run worksite tasks.
- We have a major programme for work on the Calderdale stretch of the Pennine Way.
- With Calderdale Highways, we have a project to improve the waymarking of paths leading off public roadsides.
- We will complete our work to repair and replace stiles into Open Access land in the Todmorden area.
- We will need to respond to a request from Calderdale Council safety by developing a more formal programme of training and assessment of volunteers with a particular emphasis on safety.

And of course, 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!
