



Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
 Email: office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk
 Website: www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk
 Telephone: 01273 833264

Village Centre
Trinity Road
Hurstpierpoint
West Sussex BN6 9UY

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES GRANT APPLICATION (please ensure you are using the correct form)

Please note that this application should be accompanied by a copy of the financial details of the requesting organisation. Where relevant we will need to see account details showing income, expenditure, and the level of balances. If annual accounts are not available, copies of the bank statements or receipts for expenditure should be enclosed.

1.	Name of Organisation	The Monday Group
2.	Name, Address and Status of Contact within the organisation.	Jim Redwood
3.	Telephone number and Email Address	
4.	Is the Organisation a Registered Charity? If yes, then please provide charity number	Yes, reg no: 1197847
5.	Amount of Grant Requested	£500
6.	For what purpose or project is the grant requested, and how does it align with our sustainability strategy? Please be as detailed as possible about how exactly the funds would be spent. If for a specific project, when would you anticipate that to complete/how long would the funds last? (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary).	To support the work of the Monday group maintaining and improving the rights of way network in your area for walkers. See attached information for further details.
7.	What will be the total cost of the project?	Our outgoings for 2024 (the latest year for which our accounts are available) were £24,675. We need to raise funds of this order to maintain our activities. A kissing gate with surrounds in green oak would cost c£450 in materials alone. A stile with a dog gate in green oak costs c£250 in materials. The grant applied for (£500) would therefore cover the cost of a kissing gate or 2 stiles.
8.	If the total cost of the project is more than the grant, how will the residue be financed?	If we do not raise sufficient funds to cover our costs we would initially turn to our balances to fund continued activities. In the long run we would have to limit our activities.

9.	Have you applied for a grant for the same project to another organisation? Ifso, which organisation and how much?	We apply to a number of parish councils and grant-giving organisations, and we also receive contributions from landowners as well as ad hoc donations. At present we have no outstanding grant applications. Turner-Dumbrell Trust normally fund us in the sum of £1,500. See our annual report for 2024 for information and profile of a typical year for fundraising.
10.	Have financial details been enclosed with the grant application?	Our 2024 annual report includes our most recent statement of accounts and is attached with this application.
11.	Please list any other supporting documents that have been included.	Supplementary statement and Annual Report 2024

You may use a separate sheet of paper to submit any other information which you feel will support this application.

Signed

Jim Redwood

Date

Please return this completed form, together with all relevant accompanying information to:

Office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk or via post:

Clerk to the Council

Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council

Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint

West Sussex, BN6 9UY

DATA PROTECTION

We take the protection of your personal data seriously. If you contact or communicate with us we may hold your contact and

other details. We will only use this information for the purposes of carrying out our Council business with you.

We will not pass your details to any other person or organisation without your express permission. We are registered with the ICO (Information Commissioners Office). For details of our full privacy notices please go to our website.

Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council

Grant Application for Monday Group funding

The Monday Group

The Monday group is an organisation of volunteers who build and maintain stiles and other structures providing access for walkers on public rights of way, as well as working to keep them clear of obstructions and overgrowth. We work broadly in the area north of the Downs from Albourne to Ringmer, responding to requests from members of the public, landowners and local authorities.

We make our own stiles and gates using Sussex green oak, which is attractive, traditional and durable. We are also constructing causeways to overcome intractable footpath surfaces, subject to financial support being available, as these structures tend to be more costly.

We are entirely dependant on the funds we raise for the work we do, and from donations. We have very few regular donors, so continued fund raising is essential to make sure that the benefits we provide can be maintained.

Our work in Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common

Your parish is at the heart of our area of activity. Over the period 2017-24, of the 37 parishes we have worked in, Hurstpierpoint was again our second busiest parish (behind only Ditchling).

In 2025 to date, we have completed the following jobs in your parish:

Clearance	3
Stile repair	14
New Causeway	2
Causeway Repair	1
Waymark repair	9
Total	29

We are also incrementally surveying the area, to ensure footpaths are in good order. 6 such surveys were undertaken in your parish this year to date.

Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common PC grant application

Our grant application is for a contribution towards our continued activities, based on the track record of our work in your area. The grant applied for, £500, would fund a kissing gate plus surround, 2 stiles, or about 10 stile repairs.

The attached report, for 2024, provides the most recent statement of accounts for our organisation. The information above demonstrates the strength of our presence in your parish, and the work we do, year on year, in and for your community. Furthermore, our work more generally is highly likely to benefit the many residents of your parish who walk beyond the parish boundaries in the surrounding countryside.

In terms of the objectives of your sustainability strategy:

- **Help nature to recover**

Encouraging active access to the countryside involves communities in the natural environment, and motivates them to value nature and support its recovery, often through other organisations such as Sussex Wildlife Trust, RSPB, National Trust etc. There is a strong association between walking in the countryside and membership and support for such groups. Also, by working to keep established footpaths in good order and accessible, damage to other parts of the local environment is reduced.

- **Reduce waste.**

We make most of the structures we install from Sussex Green Oak, and they are bespoke to the site to ensure materials are used efficiently. Old structures are either left to rot for wildlife, or in some cases, provide firewood, so little if any is not reused in some form.

- **Increase access to green spaces**

This is central to our work, which ensures the unique footpath network is as accessible as possible to all, to help people get out and enjoy our countryside

- **Reduce carbon emissions**

Walking is a zero carbon-emission activity, apart from the travel to/from walking destinations. Ensuring local footpath networks are open, accessible and well signposted encourages exploration of the local environment and reduces travel dependence.

- **Build resilience**

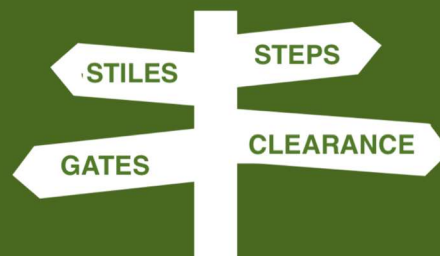
Helping people get out into the countryside provides motivation to keep fit and healthy and has significant long term health benefits. Keeping our footpath network open ensures it is used regularly which in turn leads to continued usage in the long term. Our unique common law footpath heritage has served us well for over a thousand years, and our work helps sustain them for future generations.

Jim Redwood
Monday Group
October 2025

The Monday Group

Voluntary rights of way workers in Sussex

A Charity registered in England No 1197847



Annual Report for year ending 31st December 2024.



Some of the Monday Group Volunteers after the AGM held April 2024

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Annual Report for year ending 31st December 2024.

Introduction

2024 has proved to be another successful year for the Group in which we have been very active in meeting our purpose to maintain and improve the Public Rights of Way in our area, which is gradually expanding, East and West, subject to our own capacities.

Members continue to turn out regularly, whatever the weather, so they must feel their volunteering is worthwhile. This is confirmed by the very active support received from the general public by way of reporting problems, plaudits for work done, and, of course, donations made. A more active policy to engage with other organisations is widening our perspectives and good coverage in local publications maintains our profile with the community.

The Committee and Trustees met formally 5 times during the year to conduct the official business of the Group. Routine matters have been promptly addressed, so we can maintain focus on ensuring the Group continues to meet its objectives from a sound and sustainable basis.



MG Chair receiving the Kings Award for Voluntary Services from the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex

The Kings Award for Voluntary Services. (KAVS), awarded last year (2023), was presented to the Group at the 2024 AGM by the Lord- Lieutenant of East Sussex, Mr Andrew Blackman CStJ. On behalf of the Group, Stephen Brewis (Chair) and Ron Sharpe, our most senior member, attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May. This special occasion was somewhat marred by continuous heavy rain throughout the afternoon, but it was a privilege to be invited.

Unexpectedly Sir Ed Davey, Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Alison Bennett, MP for Mid Sussex, joined the Central Team in September to assist in installing a new stile, attended by local and national press. Their coverage was mutually beneficial.



Ed Davey (Leader, Lib Dems), Alison Burnet (MP Mid Sussex, Lib Dems)

Out thanks go to the Team Leaders who put so much work into organising the activities of their teams, and to the other Committee members who all participate in the effective running of the Group.

Special mention must be made of Alan Hoare who stepped down at the end of the year from the leadership of the Clearance Team after 12 years. He has managed his team stalwartly over those years and been a valued contributor to the Committee's endeavours to get the Group to where it is now.

Monday Group organisation in 2024

The Group's purpose has always been to preserve, maintain and protect Public Rights of Way, and other access routes in the countryside, for the benefit of walkers from the local community and visitors to the area, in order to facilitate and encourage their use by all.

Members undertake a wide range of activities including the clearance of undergrowth, the maintenance and improvement of path surfaces, the making, installing and repairing of footpath "furniture" such as stiles, gates, and seating. Way-markers are also supplied and maintained to advertise the routes of the paths.

The initiative to facilitate access to the countryside for less mobile walkers whilst retaining control of stock, (consistent with the policies of most outdoor organisations, including the National Trust and the South Downs National Park Authority), by replacing stiles with gates (or gaps) continues. Paths suitable for the end-to-end removal of stiles, are being identified and several have been accomplished. Gates typically require significantly more maintenance than stiles during their life, so the regular surveying activities across the area incorporate inspections.

The Group has maintained its "Teams" structure working in a core area centred on Ditchling and expanding into nearby areas of East, Mid and West Sussex.

The four Construction teams, building and installing a wide variety of 'structures', each operate out of their own workshop, with the largest one being provided by The Order of St Augustine of the Mercy of Jesus at St Georges Park, Ditchling. The other two workshops are smaller, one being a domestic garage in Cooksbridge and the other, a share of a farm barn in Hurstpierpoint.

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The Clearance team, with its sub-group, continues to take on tasks, large or small, across the core area. At times the undergrowth seems to turn into overgrowth so they are active all year round. They also work regularly with the Turner Dumbrell Trust in keeping the local landmark of Lodge Hill clear and accessible.

The Gates team, working on both Mondays and Tuesdays at the St George's workshop, continue to make good use of the facilities there. The research and experimentation in gate manufacture over the last couple of years enables the Group to offer a reliable and cost effective design that retains the visual appeal of our traditional oak stiles. With changing requirements in the countryside, the installation of gates on footpaths is rapidly approaching the demand for our more traditional stiles.

It should be noted that much of the work undertaken would be inaccessible without the 4WD transport services generously, and expertly, provided by John Shill and Don Johnson. The Trustees and Committee recognise the risk to our activities should we lose this facility at any time and are working on contingency plans.

Job Type	2024	2023	Parish	2024	2023
Clearance	81	68	Ditchling	71	64
Stile Repair	71	74	Hassocks	35	26
Waymark/Fingerpost Repair	26	16	Hurstpierpoint	31	27
New Causeway	24	16	East Chiltington	26	29
New Waymark/Fingerpost	16	27	Chailey	18	29
New Gate	15	12	Plumpton	19	22
Stairway Repair	15	8	Wivelsfield	17	19
New Stile	13	26	Hamsey	14	10
New Bench	10	8	Westmeston	13	6
Other Work	9	1	Barcombe	9	6
Gate Repair	8	11	Little Horsted	9	4
Causeway Repair	7	13	St John Without	9	1
Bench Repair	4	5	Pycombe	6	3
New stairway	3	4	Burgess Hill	4	8
Stile Removal	0	2	Streat	4	4
New Planter	0	0	Other Parishes	17	33

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*Completed walkway near
Oldland Mill*

Our activities in 2024

A total of 302 jobs were completed in 2024, only a marginal increase on the previous year's total of 291.

The increased capacity of the Clearance Teams continues to be effective with a nearly 20% increase in their activity but our traditional work in installing stiles has dropped markedly. This may reflect a change in the perceived need for them and a trend towards more open access since the programme of gate replacement continues to expand.

The installation of boardwalks along badly damaged and waterlogged sections of footpaths has also expanded. They have been found to be an effective solution in many places as,

compared to dumping large quantities of MOT, they don't interfere with the natural flow of the water causing the problem and are within our logistical capabilities to transport to remote locations.



The Group continues to find its work concentrated in the "core" parishes where our name is better known but we continue to address problems that have been reported through our website and through active Surveying of the wider area.

Team Reports

MG Central

Brian Davies, Team Leader, writes:

At the risk of repetition from last years report, 2024 has been another good year for the Central team. The membership has stayed the same at 17 members. We would like new blood but there is no way we can accommodate them given the restrictions on the size of the workshop, the amount of parking space and the amount of work available. We regularly run out of referrals of work so go out and survey paths to look for maintenance/improvement issues. We currently survey all paths withing reasonable distance of Ditchling at least once every 3 years. This is also aided by the survey work done independently by David Bishop and Adrian White of the Clearance Team. These two members also inspect fixtures etc. on Lodge Hill each quarter, and we follow up with any maintenance. During 2024 five members of the Central Team were on the Monday Group management committee.

Most Mondays there will be 4/5 people working in the workshop and 3 or 4 teams out on site. About 75% of our work is repairs to stiles, signposts, (ours and landowners) steps etc. and the rest is new stiles (very few), boardwalks and surfacing work, steps and handrails etc.

We finally completed laying boardwalks on the footpath between Lodge Hill and Oldlands Mill which amounted to 30 sections or about 100yds in all. This was funded by donations from the local community, including the proceeds of two years sales of a "Local Views" calendar that was widely supported. We have also done a significant amount of boardwalk on the path between the shop in Plumpton Green and Streat Lane – funded by a local resident.

We also found a very muddy and dangerous path from Lunces Hall to Theobalds Rd – so dangerous a walker told us he had broken his ankle on it in 2023 – and still nobody thought of telling us – although they will now that we have installed raised boardwalks and contact plaques. This project was publicised by Steve Brewis and was fully funded by local landowners and users of the path.

We also laid boardwalks behind the Cottage Homes north of Ditchling and have more planned – funded by the landowner.



Walkway at Lunces Common

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We rebuilt the noticeboard outside Ditchling Village Hall, on behalf of the Ditchling Historical Project, and the town boundary marker post at Lindfield for the Lindfield Society.

We also had the fun of having Ed Davy (Lib Dem leader) helping us install a stile at Court Garden farm for one of his publicity stunts. I must say he threw himself into it, worked very hard and built up quite a sweat. This was then alleviated by some glasses of sparkling wine from Court Gardens Farm – for us all!

Kissing Gates. We have obtained permission and funding from the Friends of the South Downs for 6 more kissing gates to replace stiles in 2025 (it was 9 but the farmer changed his mind) and are waiting to hear from the National Trust about permission and funding for 6 gates to replace stiles around Devils Dyke.

In our search for sites to replace stiles, we have concentrated so far on trying to make whole paths around Ditchling stile free. Also making paths radiating out from Devils Dyke car park stile free. Either way the sites must be attractive to the funders: the Friends of the South Downs (FoSD) and the National Trust so far – both of whom have wide areas to cover.

MG Clearance

Alan Hoare, Clearance Team Leader 2024 & Oliver Day, Team Leader from January 1st 2025, write



The major Clearance work is split across two teams: East and West and the Clearance group also have a small Survey Team who provide detailed reports through a scheduled calendar of walking the local paths. They identify work required on both clearance and maintenance of structures.

During each year, work is undertaken by the Clearance teams to clear many miles of overgrowth, enabling easy access to the countryside for people to enjoy and to encourage healthy lifestyles.

We manage many paths on a cyclical basis and as an example one of the paths that we trim regularly is the 'Cinder Path' which links Hassocks to the base of the South Downs near to Clayton Windmills. This is a narrow route which is very popular with walkers as it links the main line railway at Hassock to the Downs. Without the regular work the path would soon get restricted due to brambles and other side growth.



The 'Cinder path before the hedge growth on the right has its regular 'haircut'



Within Ditchling, as well as keeping Public Rights of Way (PROWs) clear we carry out clearance work and maintain the gates and steps at Lodge Hill on behalf of the Turner Dumbrell Trust. The paths in this area are not 'PROWs', however the Trust is a Charity dedicated to providing open spaces which will benefit the health of Ditchling residents. The views from the top of Lodge Hill are a delight especially on a sunny evening.

In addition to the cyclical clearance of important paths in the area., as and when Reports are received from members of the public through our website that highlight paths that have become overgrown and often almost unusable, we add these to our work program and they are tackled as soon as possible. We are appreciative of those members of the public who take the trouble to let us know of problems.

Our Clearance volunteers total about 20 and are split between two clearance groups. Most volunteer on a regular weekly basis and after the work is complete we reward ourselves for a job well done by meeting for a quick coffee or tea. If there is a birthday to celebrate there may even be cake!

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In December Alan Hoare the longstanding Clearance Leader made the decision to stand down. Alan has been an enthusiastic leader and brought considerable experience of managing outdoor work teams from his job before retirement with the council. During the 12 years managing the Clearance teams he has shown complete dedication to the role. As Alan steps down, we extend our gratitude for his dedicated service. His work has left an indelible mark on our organisation and the community.

Thank you, Alan.

MG East

Jim Redwood, Committee representative for the team, writes:

We are a small team, ably led by Jim Edwards, who makes most of what we install. Our thanks go to him and also to John Shill for the expert and generous use of his Discovery which gets us and our trailer and equipment where we need to be each week.



For the East team, 2024 was the year of the gate. We started the year completing our work for Little Horsted Parish Meeting who commissioned bespoke steel kissing gates from a local blacksmith which we installed on the boundary of East Sussex National golf club.



We ended the year fundraising for new gates on Offham Down, to be installed in 2025.

In between, 11 out of the 54 jobs we completed in the year were gate repairs or installations. This included 3 gate installations on the Duckyls estate at West Hoathly, the grounds of a wonderful residential care home for residents with varying disabilities.

We were pleased to undertake a series of stile installations for Plumpton College for the new estate manager, as well as some work for the Lewes Town Council Ranger at Langport Bottom in Lewes.



We came to the rescue of Ringmer parishioners by repairing a kissing gate and improving the surface of a well-used footpath from the cemetery, for which no funding solution was available. In due course, the work was funded retrospectively by the Parish Council



A further notable project was the installation of a new stile dedicated to the memory of Harold Rowling, founder of the Monday Group, who died in late 2023. The photograph across shows the team and Harold's wife Pam on the stile at Ditchling Beacon, overlooking his house in Underhill Lane below.



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MG West

The Monday Group West team continues to operate with a small group of workers out of Hurstpierpoint and had a successful but fairly quiet year focussing largely on the build, installation and repair of walkers seats and benches which has become one of their trademarks. They also built and installed a causeway and undertook clearance as well as a number of other jobs around Hassocks and Hurst which keep the environment looking smart.

Membership

Active Membership in 2024 has decreased slightly to 50 workers (2023 was 52).

The 'waiting list' of potential new members continue to receive regular additions through the web site and at the end of 2024 stood at 24 (17 in 2023). We have been able to drawdown a number of new volunteers into the two Clearance teams during 2024 to replace leavers, however we remain constrained by space from offering new volunteers the opportunity to join a 'workshop' team, but we always remain keen to hear from individuals skilled in carpentry as the growing task of constructing gates is much more demanding than building the traditional stiles, and with an ageing workforce, nature will inevitably deliver vacancies at some point in the future.

The Group is grateful for the ongoing support of our 20 Retired Members (24 in 2023), we look forward to meeting up with many of them at our Annual General Meeting to be held at Westmeston Parish Hall.

During 2024 we lost Tom Meekings, a long serving Monday Group member who died aged 100 and sadly, as we finalise this report in March'25 we hear of the death, peacefully in hospital of one of our original members: Les Campbell. Les was an active member until a few years ago when mobility problems forced him to join the retired group, but he continued to provide support with his extensive knowledge of local paths. For many years Les wrote a monthly article featuring a different walk each month for a local magazine and his articles attracted a wide readership. They will both be missed.

Communications and Technology

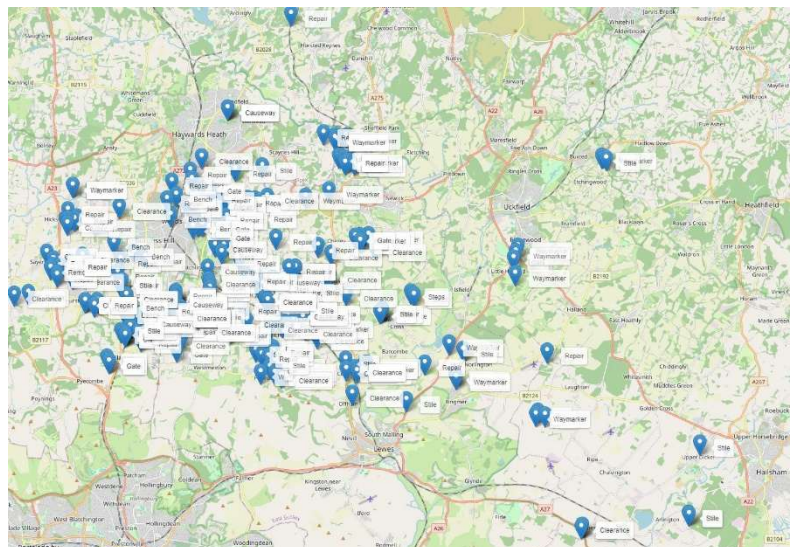
The Monday Group uses I.T. to support its operations in a variety of ways:

- The website advertises our activities and facilitates the public contacting us and donating.
- The mobile phone also assists the public to contact us.
- "Dropbox" gives secure document sharing and long-term archives for the Committee and Team Leaders.
- Various Mondaygroup.org email accounts provide external communication channels.

Our I.T. has been stable during 2024. The new interface with PayPal has been pretty reliable and the automated Gift Aid facility has proved beneficial, adding 25% of value to qualifying donations.

Our web site at www.mondaygroup.org has been constantly updated to keep it current, including:

- A list of major Recent Work
- Photographs of work
- We have recently added a map which now shows every completed job in the year.
- Restructuring to keep the home page clean while still retaining the pages on the Kings Award for Voluntary Services (KAVS), a history of the Monday Group and its founder: Harold Rowling, etc.



Annual Report for year ending 31st December 2024.

Plaudits

These are some of the comments received from appreciative walkers through our website in 2024:

Theobalds Road and Church Lane, Wivelsfield. *"We walk in this area most days and it's was my husband who broke his ankle before the bridge was made. Such a fantastic improvement. Keep up the good work. As a keen runner I'm always coming across your work through the area".*

*"I live in **Theobalds Rd** and enjoy the surrounding walks. Our grandchildren got stuck in the mud at the bridge. Great fun for them and Grandad but it will be much easier to navigate with the beautiful new bridge approach for which we thank you all. Absolutely terrific."*

*"I'm out **walking my dogs daily** and have come across several examples of your group's excellent work that makes such a positive impact - especially in these muddy times! I just want to praise the quality of the work and thank you so much for this highly valuable contribution to local communities keeping pathways/stiles maintained and useable."*

*"**I run, walk and ride the downs around Lewes** and spot your work on stiles etc. The work you all do is invaluable! I don't feel alive unless I have been on the Downs twice in a day. Thank you for everything you all do. When I retire, I will be heading your way."*

*"I would like to thank your group for removing a very dangerous, wobbly stile on a footpath into a field adjacent to **Frogshole, Banks Road, North Chailey**. The new kissing gate that has been constructed is a vast improvement on the wobbly stile which was really an accident waiting to happen. "*

*"I frequently **cycle up Middleton Bostal** so was saddened to see the bench I stop at for a rest in pieces. You can imagine my joy at seeing it repaired recently. Many thanks and keep up the good work. I am so grateful for your wonderful group."*

*"**My wife and I walk quite extensively over the South Downs, Weald, Ashdown Forest and Romney Marsh** and have noticed your work, as indicated by the yellow/green plaques. We find your stiles particularly a godsend as they always seem to be in good order and very sturdy. In other areas stiles can be rickety and awkward, which isn't something we relish at our age (approaching 77 in my case). Thanks for the work you do, we appreciate it greatly, as do many other walkers, we're sure."*

*"I've lived in Hassocks for over 30 years and always went **walking with my husband on the footpaths round about Ditchling, Hurst and further afield**. Although he passed away at the end of last year, I keep up the walking with a group of friends and am always grateful for the wonderful work you do on our stiles and pathways. I was particularly interested in **the 300 feet long walkway from the mill to Ditchling** as I have been stuck many a time in the mud there so thank you for all your group does for us."*

Annual Report for year ending 31st December 2024.

Accounts

Expenditure

	2024		2023	
	£	%	£	%
Materials	£18,494	75	£18,264	67
Tools	£2,022	8	£5,197	19
Mileage	£1,468	6	£1,128	4
Overheads	£2,691	11	£2,695	10
Total	£24,675	100	£27,284	100

Expenditure in 2024 decreased by 10% on 2023. The most significant decrease was in tools, as in 2023 we invested in equipment for manufacturing our own gates and replaced some old tools. On the other hand there were once again significant increases in some costs due to high building-cost inflation. For instance, the cost of timber increased from £8,900 in 2023 to £11,500, in 2024, an increase of 30%. Furthermore, in last years report we commented that timber and hardcore costs went up by 33% between 2022 and 2023.

Mileage costs, collecting materials and transporting to site were once more broadly constant with previous years. Overall, our overheads remain consistently small.

In 2024 89% of all our expenditure went on materials, tools and mileage (90% in 2023) and all of these costs are directly related to our work on the ground. Our overheads in 2024 at just 11%, on essential items like insurance, are consistent with our policy of ensuring that the majority of the funds we receive are invested in improving paths and structures for walkers.



The Monday Group benefits significantly from the support of St George's estate, Ditchling Common, through the generous arrangements for us to use a workshop and storage facilities on their estate.

Lewes District Council (LDC) currently support us by providing rent free use of 2 lock up garages in Cooksbridge for storage of a trailer and material, however at the time of writing, they have submitted a planning application for developing the area, and it is possible we may have to pay to rent equivalent storage space at some time in the future.

Our M.G. West team also benefits from rent free use of a barn at Danworth Farm.

These benefits do not show on our income accounts, but without them our expenditure on rental of workshop and storage space would be significant. This is reflected in our accounting policy to keep a reserve sufficient to cover such costs if necessary. St George's have been extremely generous to us over the years, but we also need to provide for the possibility that they may wish to reclaim their workshop and storage space at some time in the future.

Another significant potential cost would arise if the vehicles owned by volunteers and generously made available to us for all-terrain access to sites to transport heavy structures and materials are no longer available. This would require significant recurrent revenue and/or capital funding which we should realistically consider a contingent requirement.



Annual Report for year ending 31st December 2024.

Income

	2024		2023	
Source	Sum	Percentage	Sum	Percentage
Contributions for work done	£11,861	38	£10,662	35
Personal Donations	£10,378	33	£6,379	21
Parish Councils	£3,940	13	£3,500	11
Clubs & Other Organisations	£3,548	11	£8,106	27
Bank Interest	£601	2	£246	1
Other Sources	£523	1	£370	1
Calendars	£224	1	£1,054	3
Memberships	£205	1	£245	1
Bird Boxes	£0	0	£22	0
Total	£31,280	100	£30,584	100

Income for 2024 was similar to 2023. Once again, income for work done was the largest proportion of all categories, and up slightly from 2023. 'Work done' means where a donation is made to cover the cost of materials for a particular job, sometimes including an additional donation towards funds. Receiving 38% of all income in this way is a considerable achievement, demonstrating our commitment to ensuring that, as far as possible, those with responsibilities for footpath maintenance are supporting our work in an appropriate way. This category also includes all the work undertaken in the partnership programme with the Friends of the South Downs to replace stiles with gates.

There was a significant increase in personal donations, from £6,379 to £10,378. This is partially explained by our success in securing donations for particular works, such as the causeway work in Wivelsfield, at Oldlands Mill, Ditchling and for replacement gates on Offham Hill. We are also finding that including QR codes in appeal notices is very successful as it enables walkers to make spontaneous donations when they encounter our work and wish to express their appreciation directly.

However, our thanks are also due to the generous customers of the Plough at Plumpton and Orion news, Hassocks for keeping up the old tradition of making cash donations into our collection boxes!

A particularly generous donation of £3,000 was received from the estate of the late Tom Meekings, a long serving Monday Group member who died in 2024 aged 100. His family wanted this donation to be made as the Monday Group meant so much to him in his later years.

Organisations who funded us during the year includes our regular benefactors, the Turner-Dumbrell Trust, Ditchling Footpath Society, and the Lewes Footpaths Group. Other organisations supporting us included Hurstpierpoint Mothers Union, Charlottes Dragon charity shop in Lewes, The Ramblers Association Mid Sussex group, Lewes Athletics Club, the Wates family trust, Michael Bell Brand Communications and The Ramblers Association.

Parish Council income is up partly because we were invited by Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common PC to apply early for a grant in their financial year, which resulted in 2 payments of £500 in our account for 2024. Other parish council grants came from Ditchling Parish Council, Hassocks Parish Council, Westmeston Parish Council, Streat Parish Meeting, Chailey Parish Council, Wivelsfield Parish Council and Plumpton Parish Council. We are grateful for all this wonderful support.

Calendar income was down because there was no Ditchling Calendar this year, so the few payments were residual from last years calendar.

Bird box income has now ceased and will no longer feature as an income category.

NOTE : The formal Annual Report and Accounts in Charities Commission format will be available on request or can be downloaded from the Charities Commission website later in 2025.