



Mid Cornwall Scouts

**Annual report
June 2024**

Mid Cornwall Membership

Census January 2024 - Summary - Mid Cornwall								
Name	Squirrel	Beaver	Cub	Scout	Explorer	Network	Adults	Total
Mid Cornwall					53		48	
Lostwithiel	Provision closed						7	
1st Newquay Scout Group	10*	25	19	22			24	
5th Newquay		17	29	23			14	
1st Par-St Blazey and Fowey		24	12	11*			29	
Polkerris	14	20	31	14			18	
1st St Austell	13	28	22	9*			18	
2nd St Austell/Charlestown	15	21	28	29			16	
St Ender Scout Group			14	8*			9	
1st St Eval		25	25	18			19	
1st St Stephen		11*	17	6*			7	
Sticker		13	19	16			11	
The Clays Scout Group		12	10*	13			14	
Heligan			14	7*			5	
Totals	52	196	240	176	53	0	242	959

*indicates a small section – 11 young people or less

The overall youth membership in January 2024 was up on the previous year by 88 members. Adult membership is up by 15

Trends compared to 2023

Name	Young People (inc Squirrels)			Sections (inc Dreys)				
	2023	2024	Growth	2023	2024	Opened	Closed	Change
Mid Cornwall	42	53	+11	2	3	+1	-	+1
1st Gorran and Mevagissey Sea Scout Group	0	0	-	1	0	-	-1	-1
Heligan Scout Group	35	21	-14	2	2	-	-	-
Lostwithiel	0	0	-	0	0	-	-	-
1st Newquay Scout Group	60	76	+16	3	4	+1	-	+1
5th Newquay	68	69	+1	3	3	-	-	-
1st Par-St Blazey and Fowey	40	47	+7	3	3	-	-	-
Polkerris	78	79	+1	4	4	-	-	-
1st St Austell	52	72	+20	4	4	+1	-1	-
3rd St Austell	0	0	-	0	0	-	-	-
2nd St Austell/Charlestown	88	93	+5	4	4	-	-	-
St Ender Scout Group	24	22	-2	2	2	-	-	-
1st St Eval	39	68	+29	3	3	-	-	-
1st St Stephen	24	34	+10	3	3	-	-	-
Sticker	46	48	+2	3	3	-	-	-
The Clays Scout Group	33	35	+2	3	3	-	-	-
Total	629	717	+88	40	41	+3	-2	+1

AGM Papers

Name	Ave Section Size			Total on Waiting Lists		
	2023	2024	Change	2023	2024	Change
Mid Cornwall	21	18	-3	0	0	-
1st Gorran and Mevagissey Sea Scouts	0	0	-	0	0	-
Heligan Scout Group	18	11	-7	0	0	-
Lostwithiel	0	0	-	0	0	-
1st Newquay Scout Group	20	19	-1	48	3	-45
5th Newquay	23	23	+0	2	3	+1
1st Par-St Blazey and Fowey	13	16	+2	0	0	-
Polkerris	20	20	+0	10	32	+22
1st St Austell	13	18	+5	4	11	+7
3rd St Austell	0	0	-	0	0	-
2nd St Austell/Charlestown	22	23	+1	0	35	+35
St Enoder Scout Group	12	11	-1	0	0	-
1st St Eval	13	23	+10	18	0	-18
1st St Stephen	8	11	+3	0	0	-
Sticker	15	16	+1	0	6	+6
The Clays Scout Group	11	12	+1	0	0	-
Total	16	17	+1	82	90	+8

Name	Top Awards			Small Sections *		
	2023	2024	Change	2023	2024	Change
Mid Cornwall	2	13	+11	0	1	+1
1st Gorran and Mevagissey Sea Scouts	0	0	-	1	0	-1
Heligan Scout Group	0	0	-	0	1	+1
Lostwithiel	0	0	-	0	0	-
1st Newquay Scout Group	1	11	+10	0	1	+1
5th Newquay	1	12	+11	0	0	-
1st Par-St Blazey and Fowey	8	10	+2	1	1	-
Polkerris	12	14	+2	0	0	-
1st St Austell	6	6	-	2	1	-1
3rd St Austell	0	0	-	0	0	-
2nd St Austell/Charlestown	0	4	+4	1	0	-1
St Enoder Scout Group	0	0	-	0	1	+1
1st St Eval	7	2	-5	1	0	-1
1st St Stephen	3	4	+1	3	2	-1
Sticker	2	5	+3	0	0	-
The Clays Scout Group	0	0	-	2	1	-1
Total	42	81	+39	11	9	-2

Squirrels

Number of Sections	4
Number of Young People	52
Change from previous year	+26
Sections with 11 or less young people	1

Beavers

Number of Sections	10
Number of Young People	196
Change from previous year	+27
Sections with 11 or less young people	1

Cubs

Number of Sections	12
Number of Young People	240
Change from previous year	+35
Sections with 11 or less young people	1

Scouts

Number of Sections	12
Number of Young People	176
Change from previous year	-11
Sections with 11 or less young people	5

Explorers

Number of Sections	3
Number of Young People	53
Change from previous year	+11

District Chair's Report

Another year has flown by and it's been a busy year again for the Trustee Board.

At the beginning of the year we finally moved all our bank accounts into Lloyds Bank, saving the District money by not having to pay account fees being imposed by HSBC and making our accounts more visible via easier online banking. These benefits have really been useful over the last twelve months.

We continued to embed the new Volunteer Culture into the way we work, sharing the tasks required from your Trustee Board around the team. With the help of the Appointments Advisory Committee we transformed the welcome given to new volunteers. Moving away from having a panel of people interviewing adults to online flexible welcoming conversations, whilst keeping within the current POR requirements. I would like to publicly thank those people, especially Luke Smith and Sally Tregaskes for keeping the administration and the welcomes flowing.

The Finance Advisory Sub Team have also been working hard to support the District. We now have a up to date policy on supporting our young people and adults financially when facing hardship, attending international events and when opening new sections. The team researched and recommended a high yield savings account, which we are already getting the benefits of the interest from. They continue to work closely with the Trustee Board to review our income streams within the District. A huge thank you to the team members for all the hard work they have put in.

The Drummers Lodge Management and Maintenance Team have also been busy. They have a formal budget for the 23/24 financial year which was approved by the Trustee Board. They have a development plan for the next 5 years, focussing on new developments and improving the facilities which are already on the site. Over the last few months discussions have started about replacing the marquee, which is erected every year, with a permanent building. This is an exciting time for the site and I thank those on the two teams for keeping our District Campsite moving forwards and looking so good.

Our transformation journey continues for the Trustee Board, I am sure you're all aware that in the April 2024 POR release there was major changes to how your Trustee Board is appointed and how the membership is made up. In the last couple of months, I have opened up a selection process to search for new trustees, members of the Trustee Board have met with volunteers who came forward, and I have a structure which the Trustee Board recommend to the District Scout Council.

I have two final thanks to make, firstly to each of the Trustees who have supported the District this year. Our meetings have sparked great debate on some topics, having a team who are willing to speak out and voice their opinions does really ensure we're making the best decisions for Mid Cornwall.

My final thank you, is to you. Thank you for your support over the last year and trusting us to make the decisions in the best interests of our District.

John Rickard
District Chair

District Commissioner's Report

The highlight of the year for this report has to be the District camp held at Lanhydrock in May, 11 out of our 13 active groups attended at some point over the weekend with 10 of them having sections that camped for the weekend. This was the first time we had camped as a full district since the year 2000 so the amount of planning and organising that went in to the weekend was immense, the organising team started the planning process in late 2023 to put in to action Shaun's idea of 'lets have a district camp!'

On the Friday afternoon the crowds started to arrive, each group finding (and in some cases then needing to extend their camping area!) and all of the young people started the usual process of ignoring what was being said about putting the tents up and just played with their friends, which was lovely for me to see but maybe not as great for the leaders! As the set up was finished and the leaders briefing was completed the wide games started and then, to great acclaim, the silent disco started, I am still surprised now at how many young people were dancing and singing along to the tunes that were released before even some of their parents were born.

Saturday morning saw the start of the activities, there was, climbing, archery, tomahawk throwing, cycling, laser tag and craft to name but a few, these would continue all weekend as the weekend campers moved around their zones. Also at this time the squirrels, beavers and their leaders arrived for their day of fun and adventure with their own activity zones and nature walk in the afternoon. After lunch we had some VIP's come to visit us, our MP, the Mayor of ST Austell and other county councillors came to see what it is that we do in scouting, and I have to say, they were all so impressed with both adults and the young people. This also gave us an opportunity to make two very special presentations to Shaun Wakeham and Ben Powlesland who were awarded the Kings Coronation Medal for all of the work they did in London over the Coronation weekend in 2023, to be able to do this in front of over 450 members of the district really did make it special. The squirrel and Beaver visit ended with what was described to me as an amazing campfire (the older members also had one later that night,) I would like to say a special thank you to Andy Nash for running these, everyone loved them.

Sunday was a day of more activities and then the task of getting the packing done and the tents down with all those tired young people around, before we all got together for our closing ceremony around the flag.

To have nearly half of the district on one camp was in my mind the best thing I have been involved with in my time in Mid Cornwall, to see the young people playing together, the adults meeting new people and swapping skills was inspiring. As I said, this camp did not come together by accident, the core team of organisers put in over 6 months of planning to making it a massive success, the build team arrived on site on the Wednesday and did not leave until the Monday evening, without these teams it would not have been possible to even consider the camp so I would like to send a massive personal thank you to all of them.

Finally I would like to give a special thank you to Shaun Wakeham, without his hard work, perseverance and organisation, this camp simply would not have happened, I dread to think how many hours he put in to it but I am so glad that he came up with the idea and then convinced me it was a good one!

James McIntyre
District Commissioner

Campsite Report

Drummers Lodge is going from strength to strength.

The Management Team and the Maintenance Team have been working hard to bring the site up to regulations, but this work does continue. We have been working through the Safer Scouting Audit Tool to identify where the site may not quite be where we need it to be. The Management Team are confident we offer a safe and secure site for our young people to use, we are now working to ensure we're recording all the mandatory regular checks done throughout the year and that record is accessible by anyone should they request it.

The Maintenance Team have been busy making improvements and upgrading various parts of the site. The washing up shelter has seen it's first season of use, new seating has been installed around the campfire circle, a new maintenance team container has been purchased and relocated further down the site and the entrance walls continue to be extended up the driveway. The team meet on our monthly work days (first Saturday of the month) and they welcome new volunteers at anytime, checkout the District website for more information.

A huge thank you to our Mid Cornwall Explorers from St Austell, who have built the new wood store on site, its going to be a great asset and we look forward to starting the process of moving all the firewood into it over the summer.

The Explorers are also working on finishing off the Cribb Hut, located in the middle of the site, which will be used as a device charging area, cold food storage space and general store.

As Chair of the Trustee Board and Chair of the Drummers Lodge Management Team, I would personally commend the two teams at Drummers Lodge for their commitment to the District. Thank You!

John Rickard

Drummers Lodge Committee

Finance Committee

What a busy year! All credit to the District Leadership Team who have succeeded in another year of guiding the District through changes, national and local, and continue to do so; keeping Cornish Scouting strong and available to all the young people of Mid Cornwall. The Finance Sub Team carry on our commitment to support the District in maintaining best practice and compliance. Together we assure the District remains financially robust and ready to look to support Groups, Events and individuals.

Sincere thanks go to fellow Finance Sub Team Members: Karen Jarvill; Tracy Adams; Cyril Poad; Christine Sargeant and Ross Geach.

I am very proud to be part of this Team and I know our efforts are appreciated and relied upon by the District Team and Trustee Board.

Over the past year we have been asked to action or consider such things as

- putting the District Scout Shop online - completed
- adoption of the use of OSM cards (Online Scout Manager prepaid expense cards) for use of District and Drummers designated staff – agreed and covering Policy produced by Trustees
- investigation into practicality of opening a higher interest savings account to run alongside current account with various accounts suggested to District Trustees with recommendation of a Lloyds Bank Deposit Account which operated under a 'days notice' criteria and provided a decent rate of interest – Trustees accepted and actioned this option
- how to allocate funds to the District Support Fund and to produce policy wording for operating the fund fairly – Policy wording has passed through the Sub Team and Trustees are due to finalize all details, including online application forms, imminently
- The District Team have kept the Finance Sub Team up to date regarding Groups which have amalgamated or closed, the situations regarding equipment, cash & property and how the District is looking to ensure the young people affected are still supported. So we can recommend best practice and support moving forwards – ongoing

The Finance Sub Team look forward to the next year and will continue to provide balanced support and assistance to the District Team. For all the excitement and challenges to come, we all just want the best for the young people of Mid Cornwall District.

Jacqui Rickard

District Finance Committee Chair

You said, we did!

Before each AGM the District Team ask what you want us to do over the next 12 months. In 2023 you asked us this, and here is the progress we have made.

Help with struggling groups / Help and support for existing groups

This is something which always comes up and the District Team are out there supporting groups. Some need some more focussed support for short periods, others need some background help for longer. We are here to help, so please get in contact if there is something specific you need.

We are always looking at recruitment and we do recognise how hard this is sometimes. We've had some really good results in recruitment to Trustee Boards recently, embracing the new volunteering culture and making our appointments process more welcoming has had a massive impact.

Some of the successes include Sticker Scout Group have 6 new trustees, Lostwithiel Scout Group is about to reopen young person provision, we have new Explorer units and leaders across the District and we have made headway in getting groups working together to share leaders and skills. Following the group provision review around St Austell we're pleased to see the number of young people and adults involved in those groups has increased overall. In 2024/2025 one of our aims is to review the governance at each group and then plan how we can support Groups best.

Inclusion and safeguarding workshops

This is something we are very keen to get organised, however it hasn't happened this year. Sorry! We have been waiting to see and hear what the new learning is like when we move to the new digital tools and transformation is complete. When we get an idea of what is available through this new system, we can make sure any workshops aren't reinventing the wheel and are useful and relevant to us all.

More events because they're fun !

Did you attend District Camp 2024? I think the Camp Team delivered on that one!

No thoughts currently but the events you have organised within the past 12 months have been well planned, thought out and enjoyed by all who have attended.

Thank you! We are definitely proud of our Events Team!

Put on a camp for the Mid Cornwall Explorer Units (getting to know Explorers in Mid-Cornwall)

This is something which has been suggested to the Explorer Leaders. So watch this space...

Things are improving, keep up the good work

Thank you!

Represent all of the groups on the Fb page, not just 1st NQ & Polkerris

We have tried to spread the social media love around, which is easy to do on our District events. However if groups are running activities at normal meeting nights, please send in your photos and explanations to website@midcornwallscouts.org.uk or message us on Facebook. We rely on your submissions and ensuring you have the permissions needed for photos on social media.

Minutes from 2023 AGM

Date: Wednesday 7th June 2023

Venue: Drummer Lodge Campsite, Scredda

1. Welcome

District Chair, John Rickard, welcomed everyone to the AGM. Special welcome was extended to Mary Fisher (District President), Gareth Phillips (County Commissioner) and other guests.

The District Chair informed the members in attendance that the family of Stanley Weston had also been invited to the afternoon, unfortunately they weren't able to attend. After the passing of Stanley Weston recently, his estate has donated £1000 to Drummers Lodge asking for it to be used towards the new washing up shelter project. This has been gratefully received on behalf of the District and once the project is complete the family will be invited up to Drummers Lodge to see the end result.

2. Apologies for absence

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Ruth Dungey | Occasional Helper |
| • Malcolm Vian | Group Trustee Board Chair |
| • Shaun Wakeham | Deputy District Commissioner |
| • Paul Britten | Group Trustee Board Chair |
| • Graham Kerridge | Occasional Helper |
| • Linda McVey-Butler | Explorer Leader |
| • Jordan Pidwell | County Youth Commissioner |
| • Cyril Poad | District Scout Shop Manager |
| • John Morcom | Drummers Lodge Maintenance Team |
| • John Povey | Occasional Helper |
| • Karen Jarvill | District Trustee |
| • Mo Coulson | Cub Scout Leader |
| • Luke Smith | District Appointments Committee Chair |
| • Nathan Pink | Group Scout Leader |
| • Cassie Bulled | Squirrels Section Leader |

3. Review of the previous year

The District Chair encouraged all leaders to read the District Annual Report which was available on the District Website and also a few copies were on the tables at the meeting. The report includes reports about how we have progressed as a District, last years minutes and this years statement of accounts. The District Chair thanked all who has taken time to bring the report together, especially Ross Geach, Mary Fisher and Peter Williams Chartered Accountants for their hard work getting the District accounts examined in time for the report to be written.

4. Governance

JR

- a. *adopt or re-adopt the constitution of the Scout Council (POR Rule 5.3)*

The District Chair proposed that the District adopt the relevant chapter of POR

(Chapter 5.4) as our constitution for the next 12 months. **This was passed by majority vote.**

- b. *confirm or re-confirm dates for the charities financial year*

The District Chair proposed that the District continue with the financial year being 1st April until 31st March. **This was passed by majority vote**

- c. *agreeing the number of members that may be elected to the Trustee Board*

The District Chair proposed the number is set at 3 persons. The size of the current committee has been effective. **This was passed by a majority vote**

Allowing for the same number to be nominated by the District Commissioner.

- d. *agree quorum of* (POR Rules 5.5.2.7, 5.5.2.8, 5.5.2.9)
- i. The Scout Council **20 members agreed by majority vote**
 - ii. The District Trustee Board **1/3rd + 1 agreed by majority vote**
 - iii. Any Sub-Committees **1/3rd + 1 agreed by majority vote**

5. Make Appointments

- a. *approve the District Commissioners nomination to Chair of the Trustee Board*

The District Commissioner nominated John Rickard to continue as Chair of the Trustee Board. **Combining votes from online and at the meeting this was accepted by majority vote.**

- b. *approve the District Commissioners nomination of members of the Trustee Board*

The District Commissioner nominated Jake Blum and Ben Powlesland to the District Trustee Board. Both indicated they would be willing to continue. **This was passed by majority vote over 20 members.**

During the meeting it wasn't possible to formally nominate Shaun Wakeham to the District Trustee Board, he has since been asked if he would accept a nomination and has accepted. **He was included in the nomination and 20 members of the Scout Council agreed his membership outside of the formal AGM.**

- c. *elect a Secretary to the Trustee Board*

The District Chair explained that Julie Rickard was willing to continue in the role once again. She has done a fantastic job the last couple of years and works very well with the committee. **Combining votes from online and at the meeting this was accepted by majority vote.**

- d. *elect a Treasurer to the Trustee Board*

The District Chair thanked Mary Fisher for her many years looking after the District Finances. Since the last AGM Ross Geach has taken over the accounts and has worked hard to get the accounts ready for this years AGM. The District Chair proposed Ross Geach continues in the role. **Combining votes from online and at the meeting this was accepted by majority vote.**

- e. *elect Trustees to the Trustee Board*

The District Chair explained 11 people had voted online and Karen Jarvill (Cub Parent and Accountant), Matt Jenkins (Leader and current Trustee) and Luke Smith (District Appointments Committee Chair and Supporter) were ranked top of the votes with 7 votes each. The District Chair proposed that these three persons were elected to the Trustee Board. **This was accepted by majority vote.**

- f. *approve the appointment or re-appointment of any Presidents or Vice-Presidents*
 The District Chair asked Mary Fisher if she would be willing to continue as District President. Mary agreed. The District Chair proposed that the District re-appoint Mary Fisher as District President. **This was agreed by majority vote.**
- g. *appoint (or reappoint) an auditor, independent examiner or scrutineer as required*
 The District Chair explained that work had been done by the District Finance Subcommittee to investigate the pro's and con's of using a new accountant for the independent examination of our accounts. The recommendation put to the Trustee Board was to continue with Peter Williams Certified Chartered Accountants. They showed best value for money.
 The District Chair told the District that this year the accountants had worked well with us to turnaround our accounts in a timely manner. The District Chair proposed the District continues to use Peter Williams Chartered Accountants for the next financial year. **This had already had 10 votes in agreement and 1 abstention online. The decision was passed by majority vote.**

6. Additional for Scout District

- a. nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council
 John Rickard (2 online nomination)
 Shaun Wakeham (1 online nomination)
 The District Chair explained there has been two nominations through the online vote page. The District Commissioner took the meeting and explained that both these people already have a right of attendance on the County Scout Council due to their roles. The District Commissioner asked the attending members if this would be acceptable. **No objections were received.**



Wednesdays , 6pm – 7:30pm

2nd St Austell/Charlestown HQ

Scouts uniform

2nd St Austell/Charlestown HQ, Polmarth Close,
St Austell, PL25 3TW



For sales enquiries contact 01726 69871

The District Scout Shop is also available online. Parents can order and have uniform items sent direct to them. Groups can order County, District, St Pirans, and membership badges.

midcornwallscouts.org.uk/shop

Profit from sales at the District Scout Shop go back into supporting Scouting in Mid Cornwall – so please encourage and support. Thank you