

Mid Cornwall Scouts

Annual report
June 2026



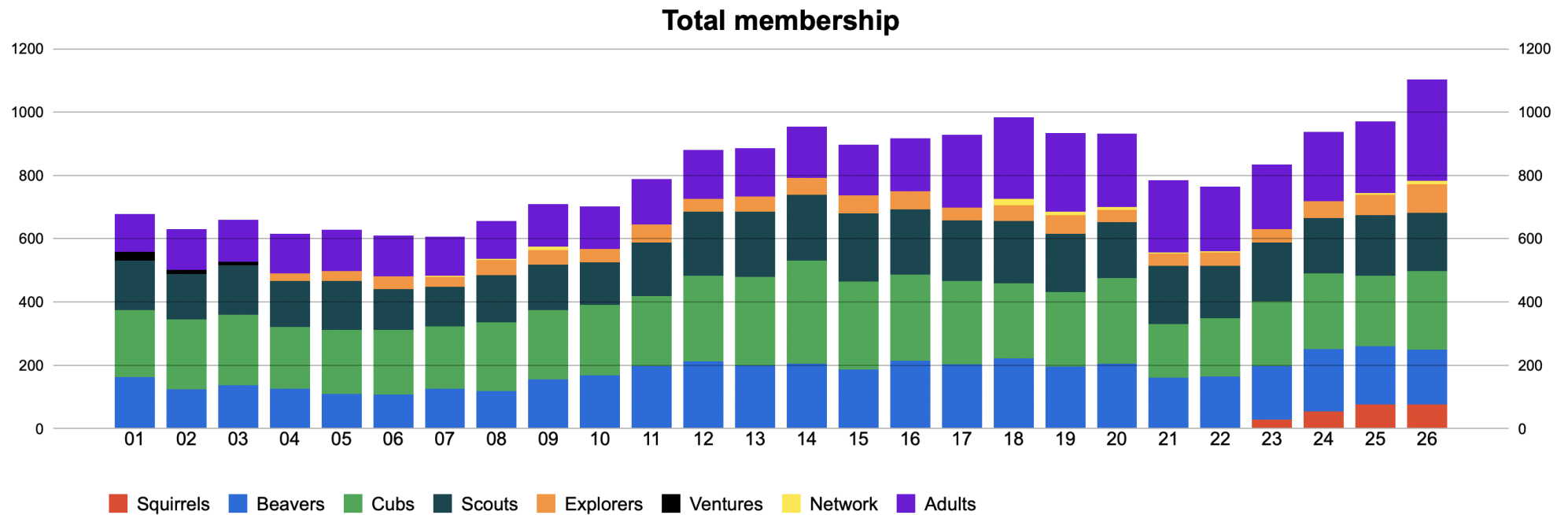
Mid Cornwall Membership

Census January 2026 - Summary - Mid Cornwall								
Name	Squirrel	Beaver	Cub	Scout	Explorer	Network	Adults	Total
Mid Cornwall					89**	11	48	148
Heligan	Provision closed							
1st Newquay Scout Group	18	30	20	20			29	117
5th Newquay	12	17	32	21			28	110
1st Par-St Blazey and Fowey		9*	17	13			18	57
Polkerris	13	21	36	24			39	133
1st St Austell	15	22	15	10*			31	93
2nd St Austell/Charlestown	16	18	32	30			26	122
St Enoder Scout Group			18	14			10	42
1st St Eval		18	23	11*			23	75
1st St Stephen		8*	8*	8*			10	34
Sticker		10*	18	10*			18	56
The Clays Scout Group		20	8*	20			14	62
1 st Lostwithiel			21	5*			17	43
Totals	74	173	248	186	89	11	310	1102

*indicates a small section – 11 young people or less

** Explorers numbers reported but actual Explorer number is 68

Comparison to 2024								
Name	Squirrel	Beaver	Cub	Scout	Explorer	Network	Adults	Total
Mid Cornwall					+24**	+5	+22	
Heligan			-13	-4			-4	
1st Newquay Scout Group	+1	+1	-2	-2			+10	
5th Newquay		-1	+2	-4			+7	
1st Par-St Blazey and Fowey		-6	+5	+9				
Polkerris	+3	-6	+11	+1			+21	
1st St Austell	-4	+4	-3	-9			+12	
2nd St Austell/Charlestown		-3		+3			+3	
St Enoder Scout Group			+2				+8	
1st St Eval		+2	+7	+2			-7	
1st St Stephen		-3	-4	-1			+3	
Sticker			+1	-2			+3	
The Clays Scout Group		+1	-2	-6			-5	
1 st Lostwithiel			+21	+5			+14	
Totals		-11	+25	-5	+24	+6	+86	+135



The 2026 census shows growth for Mid Cornwall for a 4th consecutive year.

We opened two new sections (Lostwithiel Cubs and Scouts, with Beavers started in April 2026).

The overall actual youth membership in January 2026 was up on the previous year by 17 members (taking into account the true Explorer number)

Second year in a row that Beaver numbers have reduced, but it is good to see the increase in Cubs this year after a reduction last year.

We have 32 young leaders working across sections in groups. Network membership continues to grow – with many also holding a role within a section.

The significant increase in adult membership is likely due to the numbers being taken directly from the membership system instead of relying on manual counting and adjustment for people with more than one role.

District Chair

The past 12 months have been another fantastic year for Mid Cornwall Scouts, with the District continuing to grow, thrive and create opportunities for young people to gain Skills4Life across our communities. We have welcomed more young people into Scouting, supported the development of our volunteers and delivered an exciting programme packed with adventure, skills and personal development. This success is a testament to the commitment, enthusiasm and hard work of everyone involved throughout the District.

Alongside this growth, the Trustees have worked diligently to ensure that the charity remains strong, sustainable and well-positioned for the future. A key focus has been balancing investment in new developments with the careful consolidation of our existing assets. Through prudent financial management and forward planning, we have continued to strengthen the foundations of the District while supporting innovation and development that will benefit our members for years to come.

We recognise that we're now nearing 18 months without a permanent Lead Volunteer and it's certainly had an impact on the progression the District Teams have been wanting to make. We're pleased that in the last few months a search team has been created and the work they've done so far will introduce new faces to the District Team. As Scouts moves into its new strategy, a Place to Belong, we look forward to the appointment of a Lead Volunteer to steer the District through this exciting new period. The Trustee Board keeps this recruitment as a standing item on the agenda until a new Lead Volunteer is found.

There is much to celebrate and be proud of. We are in a strong position, with growing membership and a brilliant team of dedicated volunteers. The achievements of the past year have been made possible by the generosity and dedication of our volunteers and the wider community support.

I would like to say a massive thank you to Ross Geach, who has been our Treasurer since 2023 and stood down at the end of this financial year. Ross has put a huge amount of work into moving the District accounts from a paper-based system onto a digital platform. Ross has steered the Trustee Board into the best practices for managing the charities money, identifying opportunities for better investment and chances to make the best of what we have.

This actually ends Ross' volunteering journey in Scouts, after a very impressive 36 years! Ross started as an Assistant Section Leader in Cubs at Polkerris, had involvement with groups across Mid Cornwall and Truro District before coming back to Mid Cornwall as a Trustee and finally as Treasurer. On behalf of the thousands of young people and adult volunteers who you have had an influence on over the 36 years, thank you!

As we look ahead, we do so with confidence and excitement, ready to build on this momentum and provide even more young people with the opportunities, adventures and experiences that Scouting offers.

John Rickard
District Chair

Lead Volunteer

The role of Lead Volunteer for Mid Cornwall is currently not filled.

14-24 Team

The 14-24 team supports the two District Sections: Explorer Scouts (14-18) and Scout Network (18-24). In Mid Cornwall we have three thriving Explorer Units: Tinnars, Artemis and Menabilly; and a Scout Network. In addition, we have a Young Leader Unit, offering support and training for all the Young Leaders (14-18 year olds who help with younger sections).

This Year our Explorer Units, as well as running their regular programme, have embedded a more joined-up approach, with several joint activities and camps, including Kernow 24, ice-skating, winter sports, New Year camp and a JOTI camp, allowing us to offer a wider range of activities for this adventurous age-range, as well as making good use of the strengths of the leader team.

Scout Network has grown and are looking at how they can run some of our top awards as well as accessing the outdoor programme that the young adults are asking for. Scout Network is facilitated by a Leader, but is very much driven by the members, with the programme tailored to what they want, and fitting around their work, studying and volunteering commitments.

Our Young Leader training programme has been a huge success and something we are really proud of. Approximately every three months we are offering Module A (the essential Getting Started Module) as well as two or three other training modules, and giving the Young Leaders the opportunity to feedback on how they are getting on with their Missions. We have opened up this training to Young Leaders across the County and have so far delivered Module A and the other modules to around 50 Young Leaders. We now have three Young Leaders who are very close to achieving their Young Leader Belt Buckle, showing that they have completed all the Young Leader training and the Missions, and lots more Young Leaders working towards this too.

Our priorities for the coming year are:

- Make sure that Scouts from ALL the Troops in the District are being given the support and opportunity to take part in the full Explorer Scout programme.
- Grow Explorer Scouts (we're aiming for >85 Explorer Scouts across the 3 Units by 1/4/28)
- Work with the County Team to ensure that all Explorers and Network have the opportunity to complete Duke of Edinburgh through Scouts.
- Invest in some new camping equipment for Explorers and Network and ensure we have somewhere central to store equipment.
- Embed the new updated Explorer Scout Programme (currently being launched - we'll be live in September)

Mel Brammer

14-24 Team Leader

Volunteer Development Team

The last 12 months seem to have flown by with a lot of things being achieved.

As a Team we have been busy getting our heads around the new system still and its quirks shall we say. Towards the AGM last year, we were working on making sure volunteers were up to date with their safety and safeguarding with a deadline looming to make sure people did not get suspended. Once this deadline had passed, we started to look at what we need to do to get new volunteers through the appointments process and their learning journey into scouting. The first step of this highlighted the need for more welcome conversation volunteers, at the organised group lead volunteers meeting that was held in October it was requested to the GLV's for them to complete the welcome conversation training and also ask others if they would be willing to do the training. To date we now have 21 people who have the welcome conversation accreditation in the district. This is a very good starting point however we could still do with some more if people are willing to do this. If you do the learning online and then let myself know I can then assign the accreditation. At the time of me writing this we have 17 people who are awaiting a welcome conversation.

At the end of September, the team put out a survey to see what training requests and needs the district had. This gave a good range of response from negative to positive on a manner of different things which gave an indication of where we needed to put things in place.

In January along with the Programme team we held a training session on a cold wet day at Drummers lodge. Where a variety of different subjects were taught to leaders. To add to the fun drummers had a power cut so a lot of it was carried out in the dark.

The team have been running basic module training for people both online and in person.

Moving forward at our next team meeting we are going to hopefully have a look at the awards process and getting people up to date with awards. Currently showing on the system there are 60 people who are eligible for an award. These people range from people who have been with us for a relatively short period of time to people who have many years of service with the association. Many people including myself will say they are not in scouting for the awards but seeing people's faces when they do get them makes it worth it sometimes.

I would like to end by saying a big thanks to all of the VDT for the hard work that you have put in this year and in previous years, also thank you to all of you for making scouting in Mid Cornwall what it is.

Thanks

Luke smith

Volunteer Development Team Leader

Programme Team

This is my first report as Programme Team Leader, at this time last year I was just coming to the end of stepping in as the District Lead Volunteer and hadn't been able to give a lot of time to the Programme Team Leader role.

The Programme Team is not a big team, but it does include our brilliant Events Team, headed up by Ben Powelsand, and it is this team that is constantly on the go organising and running events across the District and County for our Young People to take part in.

The Events Team's annual events include the Beaver Challenge, Cub Challenge, Coast to Coast, Kernopoly and for 2026, the new Squirrel Challenge. There has also been the Squirrel and Beaver Day visit to Lappa Valley and just a few weekends ago District Cub Camp. It is great to see some many Young People and adults involved in these events.

My thanks go to everyone, whether you are in the events team or you have just come along and help at an event, without the many pairs of hands these large-scale events just wouldn't happen or be as successful as they are.

Alongside the events mentioned above, I have started working closely with our Volunteer Development Team to look at how I, from a programme point of view, can better support our volunteers. So far this has seen input into the District Skills day in January, Residential training weekend in March and other drop in sessions. I am keen to ensure anyone who wants to gain a Nights Away Permit is supported through the process to demonstrate they can meet the technical and practical skills required.

I have been using the District Newsletter to signpost people towards opportunities or sources of programme ideas, I hope you have been receiving these and finding the updates useful.

Shaun Wakeham
Programme Team Leader

Drummers Lodge

This year has been again a great year with the camp site being used by a lot of groups etc. This winter was a little bit blowy; we lost some trees. We got away with all the buildings intact.

This year the 3 sinks in the boys toilet has been replaced, also adding a splashback and new shelf. Finally the crib hut was all completed. A path was concreted from the side door, down to the camp field, past the toilets. With gravel put down around the back of the Fisher building, and toilet block. The flooring in the main hall and side room of Fisher Building has been replaced. A new floor cleaning machine has been purchased. There was an issue with the main cookers and hood which has all been repaired and has been signed off.

So far we have some bookings for the summer which are a little down on other years.

At the end of the summer season, we are hoping to replace the roof of the toilet block. And upgrade some of the fencing around the site.

With a big thank you to Alan and the Drummer's Lodge team for all the work they do throughout the year.

Drummers Lodge New Building

We are really pleased that our application for planning permission to build a new building at Drummers Lodge was approved.

The Drummers Lodge Management Team are now assessing our next steps. Since we started this project the socio-economic climate has significantly changed and funding opportunities may be less. The team are working to produce recommendations, which will be submitted to the Trustee Board for consideration.

The marquee will make an appearance for the 2026 season, but fingers crossed this is the last season we need to use it!

Steve Allen

Drummers Lodge Team Chair

Finance

The District is in a good place financially after a couple of years consolidating assets and managing the Drummers Lodge budget. As you'll see in our accounts we are sitting on a healthy bank balance, which we hope to soon add to even further after the completion of the sale of 3rd St Austell Scout hut.

One of the first priorities for the Trustee Board following AGM is to develop a strategy for investing this money. We want involvement from across the District in this process so watch this space for some news on what this might look like.

The Trustee Board are still working through the review of the District Scout Shop, which was started in 2024. This work has taken longer than we expected, but the board does plan to complete it within the next financial year.

*Jacqui Rickard
District Treasurer*

You said, we did!

As we have done over the last few years, in 2025 we asked you what you'd like the District to do over the next 12 months. Here's what you said, and what we've done!

Keep up the good work | More of the same please.

It's really lovely to get these messages. The District Team appreciate the comments that what we're doing is being recognised and it's making a difference.

Booking system for groups to borrow any kit the district my own

We haven't been able to deliver on this in 2025/2026 but it is being considered. There are additional things to think about, for example, insurances and replacement costs. Once we have a full plan and system ready to go, we will let everyone know.

Training for leaders around inclusion and how to support that within our groups as well as communication and engagement with parents/carers and the wider community to broaden programme and experiences for our young people as well as empower leaders

During the 2025/2026 period we were waiting on direction from County, following the appointment of a new County Team. As we move into the 2026/2027 period, we have started to develop our own training programme again and this is certainly on the Volunteering Development Teams list to facilitate. We also think it's crucial that the trainer is someone with lived experience in that area, which is why had paused for a County direction.

To have a district squirrels day

Done, with huge success! The squirrels and Beavers had a day at Lappa Valley. We also introduced the Squirrel Challenge to run alongside our Beaver, Cub Challenges and Coast to Coast. We hope to see lots more red jumpers next year.

Get Lostwithiel scouts up and running - I know it is in process

Done and the group is thriving, opening Cubs and Scouts initially, but within a few months of opening they are about to open a Beaver section too!

Assist with funding options

We have made sure that our available options for funding through District are advertised online and available to all.

Recruitment of volunteers

We are exploring being able to run some pop-up events in Newquay and St Austell. Keep your eyes peeled for requests for help!

Help us to replace the roof on our hut.

This is being discussed with your Group Lead Volunteer.

Kernopoly

Good news, it's back for 2026! Dates are available online www.midcornwallscouts.org.uk/events

Minutes from 2025 AGM

14th June 2025 – 7:00pm (BBQ from 6:00pm)

Drummers Lodge Campsite

1. Introduction and welcome

John Rickard welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting, including members of the community.

2. Apologies for absence

David Wright, Andrew Tregunna, Sally and Alan Tregaskes, Claire Bradder, Tina Sweet, Sarah Powlesland, Emma Scantlebury, Elizabeth Parmenter, Rachel Morris, Curtis Harper, Jordan Pidwell, Imogen McCormack

3. Governance topics

Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 26 th June 2024.	Approved
Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)	Chapter 5 redopted
Note the District's financial year	01 April – 31 March
Approve appointed and community members of the District Scout Council	As per POR approved
Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board	10 Approved
Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM)	20 Approved

4. Review of the previous year

The District Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in the Mid Cornwall District.

Shaun Wakeham gave a short review of the year and has included more detail in the District Report.

Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts

Documents were made available. John Rickard explained the District is in a good position financially. There is more work to be done on sale of assets and the wish is to go out to the District for suggestions on what to spend the money on.

5. Making appointments

[If required] Appoint the District Chair, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board	John Rickard reappointed
[If required] Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board	William Childs appointed Christopher Harris appointed
[If required] (Re-)appoint District President and/or Vice Presidents	Mary Fisher reappointed
Appoint the Independent Examiner	Peter Williams & Co.
Nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council	Mel Brammer



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