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Software Cornwall has over 80 organisations as members. Within this, we've helped around 1000 individual employees based all over Cornwall, the South West and the UK.

We have produced this report to demonstrate the work we have delivered with the help of our members, partners and the last of our EU funding.

# A message from Holly

It's been a turbulent year for politics, the economy and the planet - with 2023 showing signs of uncertainties before it even starts. The Software Cornwall team have seen many changes and worked hard to recover from the hole that that COVID left, both financially and within our community. As I write this we're excitedly planning considerable amount of activity for next year whilst our goals remain...

Help Cornwall's tech community **thrive** into a world-leading hub for tech innovation.

**Provide** opportunities for every child, young person and adult in Cornwall to explore a future in tech.

To support the tech and software community in their ambitions to enable **growth** in Cornwall's economy.

This year we've delivered more events, trained more

people and filled more jobs than ever before. It's a reflection on both how hard the team work but also the growth and success of the tech sector here in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly. The appetite for growth and development is there to be seen in the amazing members we have.

We're seeing great collaboration between education and industry which is key to support growth, provide well paid jobs and positively contribute to the overall economy of Cornwall. Thanks to Truro & Penwith College, Falmouth University, Launchpad and Cornwall College in particular.

We're proud of our achievements over the last 12 months and look forward to collaborating with you throughout 2023.





# Over the bridge

## **SLUSH**

Alongside a number of other Cornish Tech Companies, Software Cornwall Director Holly attended [SLUSH](#) in November this year. Holly says...

*"It was a great experience and there was so much information to take in over two days – but well worth the trip. Listening to the pitches was a highlight, such forward thinking organisations that really are hoping to change the world (for the better)."*

We look forward to seeing the growth of the Cornish

start-ups that joined us on the trip. We can't wait to see more investment in Cornwall in the future.

## **Tech Exeter Conference**

In September our Event Manager Garry spoke for the first time at the [Tech Exeter Conference](#) in the Business School at Exeter University..

In front of a packed auditorium he talked about how Agile on the Beach utilises the power of their community when marketing the award winning, annual conference.

# Work experience

This year we've taken almost 100 learners through our famous Mission to Mars work experience programme. Students from our Gateway into Tech, Truro College and even virtually from Aberdeen independent school attend the sessions to learn the skills required to work for a real-life tech company.

Successful Mission to Mars alumni have gone on to take up software developer roles in local tech companies. We thank our members and volunteers for their continued support on Mission to Mars.

This year, Robert and Garry even took Mission To Mars to Bristol Tech Week for the first time! They spoke about the work experience and team building opportunities that we can offer and challenged attendees from all over Bristol and the South West to do some live coding with our Mars Rovers.

It doesn't stop there! In 2023 we're offering four brand new work experiences. Throughout next year we will be able to call upon our partners within the sector to help us build interactive and exciting work experiences for students.



# People upgrade incoming

## Training

This year we've delivered more than 61 hours of Training sessions. From Behaviour Driven Development to Data modelling. Some of these sessions are delivered weekly as part of our Training Club Programme and some are part of one-off sessions. In total we had 600+ attendees at our training sessions in 2022.

## Gateway into Tech

Our successful, self lead learning for people who would like to reskill for a career in tech and software. This year Mission to Mars ran with Gateway into Tech and involved our member companies joining for talks and direct involvement. This year we've had almost 100 applications and 13 candidates on this programme. With almost 40% going on to paid employment with local and national companies.

**Through the Software Cornwall Jobs board, the Cornish Tech Jobs newsletter and our social media channels, we've helped local tech companies to recruit over 100 new employees this year.**

# Rovers on Tour

Mission to Mars was shortlisted for another award at the Tech South West Awards this year. Unfortunately, we didn't win but we had a strong presence at the awards with the Mission To Mars Space Rovers set up for fellow attendees to demo. Not to mention Tec Girls who walked away with multiple awards on the night!

We exhibited at the women and girls Take Up Space event held at Truro and Penwith College in November. It was a huge success, demonstrating our Mission to Mars Space Rovers and introducing how to code. We were proud to be a part of raising awareness outside of the curriculum of potential careers in tech.

The Mission to Mars Space Rovers even made it to Geek Fest this year! They spent the weekend entertaining cosplayers and fandom lovers at the Heartlands site in Pool.



In collaboration with the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Digital Skills Partnership, this year we launched 'Cornwall Festival of Tech'. During the months of April and May we helped to run and publicise a number of events that celebrated digital skills, innovative business ideas and the future of Cornwall's tech sector. It was so popular that we're planning to make next years event even bigger and better.

### **Cornwall Tech Jam**

Tech Jams have returned with a vengeance this year! Every month, we take our collection of computers,

MicroBits and Mars Rovers all over the County - and we're overwhelmed with parents and children wanting to learn new skills in coding outside of the classroom every time! This year, we estimate that over 600 people have attended our monthly events - as well as our two special events we hosted in collaboration with Goonhilly and Geek Fest.

Find out more at [techjam.softwarecornwall.org](https://techjam.softwarecornwall.org)

Our first Tech Jam Late was held at St Austell Brewery Visitor Centre this year. Run exactly the same as the kids and families version (but this time with a free pasty and a pint on arrival). Loads of computers were set up with a series of exercises to run through - finally giving adults the long requested opportunity to join in the fun of our regular Tech Jams.

Tech Jam Late will return in 2023!

# Festival of Tech



# HalfStack Newquay

In collaboration with Dylan Schiemann and the rest of the HalfStack team, we brought this iconic Javascript and web technologies conference to Cornwall for the first time this year. We packed almost 100 attendees into cSpace at Newquay and they enjoyed a day of talks from Javascript and web experts from all over the UK, Europe and the rest of the world.

Once again, we'll be bringing back HalfStack in 2023. [Keep an eye on the HalfStack website](#) for more details.



# Agile on the Beach

The Agile methodologies conference, with a VERY Cornish twist, was back to full strength this year. We welcomed over 450 Agile leaders, practitioners and enthusiasts to the beach in Falmouth for two days of networking, learning, collaboration and over 50 incredible speakers on all things Agile.

The conference was a huge success and we'll be back in the AMATA Building at Falmouth University on the 6 - 7th July 2023. Tickets are on sale now and there's a special ticket offer for Software Cornwall members - go to [agileonthebeach.com](https://agileonthebeach.com) to find out more.



