FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY

University of Exeter Cornwall

BRINGING YOU NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL UNIVERSITIES

COMMUNITY

Autumn 2025

EXETER EXPERTS CONTRIBUTE TO *OCEAN*

University of Exeter, Cornwall researchers advised on *Ocean* – Sir David Attenborough's new film and book, released earlier this year. Dr Casper van de Geer from our Centre for Ecology and Conservation worked with Sir David's co-author Colin Butfield. The book brings together the biggest discoveries in marine science from the last 20 years, including work from Exeter about the current state of the ocean and its future. Dr van de Geer says, "… as showcased in the book, there is hope if nature is given the space it needs to recover."

Sir David Attenborough and Colin Butland at the *Ocean* book launch.

FALMOUTH'S 'BASKET SHARK' MAKES WAVES

A striking 20-foot mechanical sculpture of a basking shark has journeyed from Falmouth University to Plymouth to raise awareness of marine pollution. Hand-crafted from materials such as salvaged bamboo and willow, the 'Basket Shark' was created by staff and more than 100 students at the University.

After joining the Surfers Against Sewage Paddle-Out Protest at Gylly Beach in May and a residency at Falmouth's National Maritime Museum Cornwall, the shark was paraded through town for World Ocean Day. In July, it joined The Shark Trust at Plymouth's Royal William Yard for educational workshops. "Basking sharks are particularly vulnerable due to marine pollution, ghost net entanglement and global fishing pressure from shark finning practices," says senior lecturer and project leader Duncan Cameron. "This is a protest delivered through handmaking, storytelling and creativity."

CHAMPIONING THE SOUTH WEST: CREATIVE INDUSTRIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT AT WESTMINSTER

See more inside

University of Exeter Cornwall

NEWS FROM UNIVERSITY OF EXETER, CORNWALL

NEWS FROM FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY

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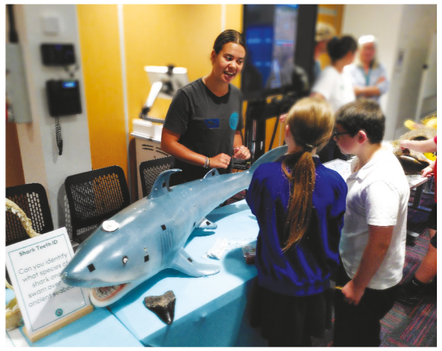
FESTIVAL INSPIRES SCHOOLCHILDREN



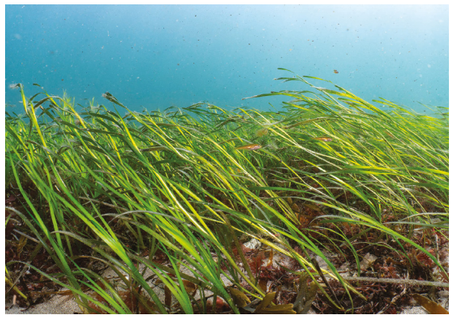
Last term, the University of Exeter, Cornwall welcomed over 120 Year 5 and 6 schoolchildren from local primary schools to our Penryn Campus for a fun-filled Festival of Science run by staff and students. The children visited exhibits on everything from dinosaurs and wildlife to viruses and renewable energy. Activities included building wind turbines, entering new worlds through virtual reality and learning about moths and beetles.

POLLINATOR PATHMAKER IN CONSTANTINE

Residents in Constantine have planted a network of living artworks in the village to monitor the biodiversity benefits of the award-winning artwork *Pollinator Pathmaker.* Created by artist Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg, the artwork uses an algorithmic tool to design planting for pollinators' tastes. Featuring over 130 plant species across 17 gardens, each with 15m² of artwork planting, the study will look at the impact of the living artworks on pollinators and compare the outcomes with 15 unaltered residential gardens over the next two years.

Visit **pollinator.art/gardens/research/constantine-network** or **@pollinatorpathmaker**

FALMOUTH SEAGRASS RESTORATION



The University of Exeter, Cornwall is part of a project to restore and protect seagrass meadows in the Fal and Helford Special Area of Conservation (SAC). These important underwater habitats support high levels of marine biodiversity, provide a vital carbon store, protect coastlines and offer serene spaces for recreation and wellbeing. Find out more at **letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/falmouthseagrass**

Left to right: Stuart Brocklehurst, Lisa Roberts, Rob Bosworth and Mark Wardle.

NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH CORNWALL COLLEGE

The University of Exeter and the Cornwall College group have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that aims to boost education opportunities for young people in Cornwall, support initiatives that meet national skills demands, enhance adult learning and upskilling and encourage wider participation in higher education.

Visit **exeter.ac.uk/cornwall/news**

Left to right: Jayne Kirkham, MP for Truro and Falmouth, Emma Hunt, Falmouth University Vice-Chancellor and Caroline Norbury OBE, Chief Executive of Creative UK.

FALMOUTH CHAMPIONS CREATIVE GROWTH

The exciting potential of our local creative industries took centre stage at the Houses of Parliament in July, as Falmouth University brought together leading voices from politics, education and the creative sector to launch a landmark report.

Hosted by the University in partnership with the Great South West Creative Industries University Alliance, the occasion showcased new evidence that confirms the region – Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset – as one of the UK's fastest-growing creative hubs. The event called for the Creative Industries in the Great South West to be formally recognised as a national cluster, unlocking investment and cementing the region's position as a leader in inclusive creative growth.

NEW HONORARY FELLOWS AT FALMOUTH

Falmouth University welcomed two new Honorary Fellows this summer. Broadcaster, writer and conductor Sue Perkins is one of the UK's most recognisable creative figures. From co-hosting *The Great British Bake Off* to presenting award-nominated documentaries and writing best-selling memoirs, she has carved out a career spanning comedy, radio, literature and the arts. Pawlet Brookes MBE is an artistic director and cultural leader, who has worked to centre Black voices in culture, create space for community-led storytelling and champion inclusion across the creative industries.

GAIN NEW SKILLS…

… grow professionally or learn just for fun with Falmouth University's inspirational short courses. You'll find programmes across a wide range of subjects, from the arts to digital skills, business innovation and gaming. Join us here on campus in Cornwall, where you can take advantage of our industry standard facilities, or learn online from the comfort of your home.

falmouth.ac.uk/study/short-courses

CREATING HEALTHIER PLACES

A pioneering UK-wide research project will use arts and humanities expertise to address the barriers to creating healthy, inclusive and sustainable built environments. Falmouth University is the only specialist creative arts university in the project, led by Oxford Brookes University and working with Cardiff University, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). Falmouth will offer four funded PhD studentships as part of this programme, with enrolment beginning in 2026. Read the full story at **falmouth.ac.uk**

EVENTS

Falmouth University's arts centre AMATA at Penryn Campus offers an exciting programme of performances and productions. Autumn highlights include…

DANCE 11 October

Ọkan. A duet, blending salsa and Wing Chun martial dances to explore identity, emotion and transformation.

FAMILY THEATRE 25 October

Little Gift. Enjoy puppetry, music and song in this family-friendly show, as a magical stranger brings joy to a lonely life.

Visit **falmouth.ac.uk/arts-centre** for info and booking.

FITNESS

Park Run. Free and fun! Every Saturday at 9am, Penryn Campus. **parkrun.org.uk/penryncampus**

CAMPUS LATE-NIGHT STUDENT EVENTS

13, 14, 15, 17 and 18 September

During our late-night events throughout Welcome Week, our Penryn Campus Safety & Support team will patrol key areas of campus to minimise noise disturbance. The team can be contacted on **01326 254444**.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

We encourage our students to be good neighbours, sharing reminders with them about being thoughtful when it comes to noise, rubbish and recycling and parking.

For advice and support, please try the following services:

- **Noise, parking or litter:** search for these words at **cornwall.gov.uk** or **devon-cornwall.police.uk.** For noise issues, you can also email **publicprotection@cornwall.gov.uk**
- **Anti-social behaviour:** email 101@dc.police.uk or call 101. In an emergency, dial 999

EXPERT'S CORNER

Chris Kaiser-Bunbury, Associate Professor at the University of Exeter's Centre for Ecology and Conservation, is an ecologist working on the conservation of plants and their pollinators. Chris has been exploring our connection with gardens and how they can be used to support pollinators in urban landscapes.

Chris's pollinator garden tips

"Autumn is a great time to prepare your garden for pollinators," says Chris. "Leave old flower heads and stems standing to provide food for birds and overwintering sites for insects. As the garden hibernates, plan ahead to create a resource haven for pollinators in the next season. Most flowering herbs like chives, oregano, thyme, lemon balm and mint are great for pollinators. Hellebores, comfrey and bugle bloom in early spring, while sedum and ivy flower into autumn. Create wild patches with deadwood and open soil, for bees and beetles to nest, and plant meadows, if space allows, to support diverse wildlife. Most importantly, avoid pesticides, which can kill or harm pollinators."

STUDENTS FUNDRAISE FOR CHARITIES

Our students have been busy fundraising this year! In particular, Camborne School of Mines Rugby team's 'moustaches in Movember' and questionable haircuts for the Bottle Match raised more than £10,000 for men's physical and mental health charities, including Sport in Mind. Plus, the Expedition Society completed a 24-hour hike along the Cornish coast path, raising more than £1,600 for Man Down.

Members of the CSM Rugby team collecting the 2025 Students' Union Fundraising Award. Photo: Bethan Jones

OPEN DAYS

Book an online or in-person Open Day to learn about studying at our universities:

University of Exeter, Cornwall
Undergraduate Open Day: Sat 11 Oct
Postgraduate Visit Afternoons:
Fri 17 Oct & Fri 5 Dec
exeter.ac.uk/study

Falmouth University
On-campus Open Days:
Saturdays 4 & 25 Oct, 22 Nov
falmouth.ac.uk/experience

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