FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY

University of Exeter Cornwall

BRINGING YOU NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL UNIVERSITIES

COMMUNITY

Spring 2026

OUR DOORS ARE OPEN

Discover the work of Falmouth University's emerging creatives at our annual Degree Shows – your chance to glimpse tomorrow's talent before our students step into their professional careers.

From **23-30 May**, we're celebrating the achievements of our final-year students across art, design, architecture, film, photography, fashion and more. All exhibitions are free and open to everyone, at our Penryn and Falmouth Campuses. Gaming fans: play the latest, greatest student-made games and meet the teams behind them at our Games Academy Expo – a buzzing, industry-style event where students showcase their work and compete for awards. Drop in to the Expo at AMATA, Penryn Campus, on **Saturday 23 May**.

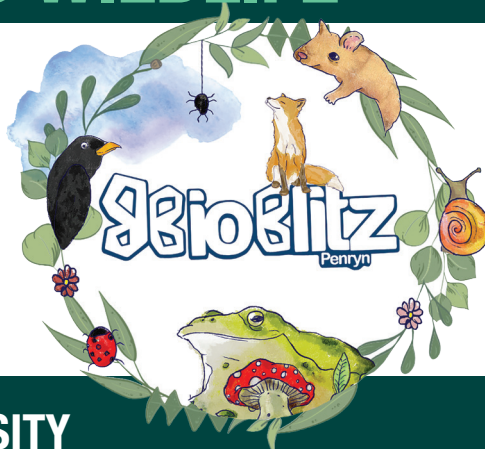
To round off the week, come along to our celebratory Community Day on **Saturday 30 May** at Falmouth Campus, Woodlane, and create your own art for free in our hands-on workshops. You'll also find family games, great food, live entertainment, plant sales and guided tours of our tropical gardens.

Find the full line-up at **falmouth.ac.uk/local-community**

HELP US RECORD OUR CAMPUS WILDLIFE

Enjoy a free, family-friendly day of nature-based fun at Bioblitz Penryn on **Monday 4 May**, at Penryn Campus, and help University of Exeter conservation students record as much wildlife as possible. Last year, we logged 439 species – from plants and birds to reptiles and mammals. Join moth trapping, pond dipping, nature walks and more, with stalls from groups including Screech Owl Sanctuary, Borneo Nature Foundation and The Flicka Foundation Donkey Sanctuary.

Follow **@bioblitzpenryn** on Instagram or **UniExeCornwall** on Facebook for updates.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR BIODIVERSITY WORK AND HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED See inside...

The two-tonne fin whale skull is uncovered.

WHALE SKULL EXCAVATED

Researchers from the Centre for Ecology and Conservation have been involved in excavating the two-tonne head of a whale that died after becoming stranded at Cornwall's Parbean Cove in 2020. Recognising its research potential, Honorary Professor Robbie McDonald arranged for the head to be buried on Penryn Campus for five years, to study its decomposition. The BBC podcast *The Whale, Secrets of a Stranding*, explores what happened to the 60-foot female fin whale. Discussions are now underway about the future of the skull and where it might be displayed.

Find out more at: **exeter.ac.uk/cornwall/news**

PLACEMENTS BOOST STUDENT SKILLS

University of Exeter students have been taking part in placements in the local community, gaining valuable insights into working at organisations such as Turn to Starboard, Trebah Garden and the Flicka Foundation. These opportunities help students gain field work experience and workplace skills while contributing to projects and supporting teams. Mutual economic and social benefits include reducing recruitment costs, supporting the local economy and strengthening community ties. If you're interested in hosting a placement, visit: **https://ex.ac.uk/dYH**

Student Issy at the Flicka Foundation.

FOCUS ON WORLD BIODIVERSITY DAY

Join the Environment and Sustainability Institute on **Monday 18 May** for nature-based events, ahead of World Biodiversity Day. Activities include a foraging walk on Penryn Campus with Dr Jon Bennie, a talk by landscape architect Melissa Ralph on the project *Making Space for Nature*, and an exhibition showcasing the RENEW programme – a collaboration between the University of Exeter and the National Trust, focused on developing solutions for the renewal of biodiversity. All welcome. Sign up at **esi-biodiversity-day.eventbrite.co.uk**

SUPPORT OUR SUSTAINABILITY WORK

You can join our student and staff volunteers for tree planting, wildflower planting and habitat maintenance on our Penryn Campus, from now until the end of May. Enjoy our beautiful grounds while learning how our Grounds team is enhancing biodiversity across the campus. Email **m.williams15@exeter.ac.uk** to sign up for a weekly update outlining activities. You're welcome to attend as much or as little as you like.

COURSES FOR CREATIVE SPARKS

Our fun summer short courses are ideal for young people aged 14-17 years who want to explore creative subjects or build their portfolios, giving them the chance to work in incredible studios, learn new skills and experience university life. Whether they're complete beginners or already passionate about art, design, games, film or performance, our friendly tutors will help them create work to be proud of. Courses start in July and include Introduction to Game Development, Script to Screen and Theatre Arts Taster.

falmouth.ac.uk/study/short-courses/short-courses-14-17-year-olds

CATCH THE ACTION

Book your seats to see *Rose of Nevada*, the latest film by BAFTA-winning director Mark Jenkin, Falmouth University's Distinguished Professor of Film Practice. Shot in Cornwall and starring George MacKay and James Bond contender Callum Turner, this eerie tale follows a vanished fishing boat that returns decades later to harbour.
Out on 24 April.

BREAKING BARRIERS

Cornwall Angel Network hosted a roundtable at Falmouth University in February to launch the Genderscope report on empowering women investors and founders. Bringing together leaders across Cornwall's investment ecosystem, the event tackled structural and cultural barriers in early-stage investment. The roundtable advances the Network's mission, led by the University with the British Business Bank, Cornwall Chamber of Commerce and the UK Business Angels Association.

AHEAD OF THE GAME

Games graduates from Falmouth University have secured a partnership with indie publisher NoQuarter Software, after netting a £25,000 Tranzfuser prize. Their Cornish-themed first-person shooter *BRINE*, set in Falmouth and starring a cast of slippery sea creatures, began life as a student project in our Games Academy. Now operating as Studio Whalefall, the team has joined the Games Incubator, the University's startup hub, to bring the title to market.

- Falmouth University and Truro & Penwith College have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding, strengthening a shared commitment to developing skills, raising aspirations and building a workforce for Cornwall. The agreement supports a connected education pathway aligned with employer needs and regional economic growth.

Falmouth University Vice-Chancellor Emma Hunt with Martin Tucker, Principal of Truro & Penwith College.

- A new £1.7 million Design and Manufacturing Studio is opening at Penryn Campus, funded by a grant from the Office for Students and Falmouth University investment. The cutting-edge facilities will help drive the development of high-skilled industries in Cornwall.

EVENTS

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

FAMILY 30 May

Discover Cinderella Ice Cream Seller: a magical, musical tale of perseverance, princes, glass slippers… and ice cream.

DANCE 14 & 15 July

Memory Keepers: athletic and rhythmically driven performance from award-winning Alleyne Dance and the National Youth Dance Company.

MUSICAL THEATRE SUMMER SCHOOL 17-22 August

LEGALLY BLONDE The Musical JR.

An opportunity to join a six-day summer school at AMATA, in partnership with Hall for Cornwall, leading to a public performance of *Legally Blonde Jr.* Young performers (school years 7-13) will work with professionals in singing, acting and dance.

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**

EXPERT'S CORNER

Neeltje Boogert is an Associate Professor in Animal Behaviour at the University of Exeter's Centre for Ecology and Conservation. She researches animal cognition, urban ecology and human-wildlife conflict, with a particular interest in how herring gulls cleverly exploit human resources to survive.

Living with gulls: Neeltje's facts & tips

Herring gulls mate for life, raise their young with dedication and stand out with their pink legs, yellow beaks and silver-white plumage. Yet they're often dismissed as a nuisance – despite being on the RSPB's 'red list' of threatened species. In Cornwall, herring gulls usually lay eggs mid-April and may produce a replacement clutch if the first is lost to predators. The first chicks hatch mid-May and fly the nest 35-40 days later. Adults can be aggressive if they sense danger to their young, but an umbrella can help if they divebomb you from the roof. Fledglings still rely on parents for food, so give them space – though gently moving one away from a road is fine. And keep food covered: gulls have a good sense of smell. Staring a gull down and shouting may deter one intent on stealing your picnic.

STUDENTS HELP ON FALMOUTH STREETS

Feet on the Street, a 'Churches Together' initiative that offers support to people who may find themselves in difficulty on a night out in Falmouth, has released a new video created by Falmouth University student Aisling Manser. Around a third of the team are student volunteers, providing a listening ear, signposting to support services and offering practical help when it's needed most. Visit: **feetonthestreetfalmouth.org**

Student volunteers at Feet on the Street.

RAISING CHARITY FUNDS

Ahead of February's annual Bottle Match Weekend, Camborne School of Mines (CSM) Rugby team players from both universities raised in excess of £8,000 for Sport in Mind with their 'awful haircuts'. CSM Football and Netball raised over £4,000 for Headway, in memory of former CSM FC player Jack Geldard.

CSM Rugby sport 'awful haircuts' – thanks to the team at The Town Barber, Falmouth.

OPEN DAYS

To learn more about studying at your local universities, book an Open Day or come for a campus tour.

Falmouth University

- On-campus Open Day: Sat 23 May (undergraduate and postgraduate)

falmouth.ac.uk/experience

University of Exeter, Cornwall

- Open Day: Weds 27 May (undergraduate)
- Postgraduate visit afternoon: Fri 5 June, 13:30-16:00

exeter.ac.uk/open-days

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