

BRINGING YOU NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL UNIVERSITIES

COMMUNITY

Autumn 2024

HELPING HANDS FOR LOCAL HOSPITAL

A cheery blue octopus with sturdy tentacles to hold IV drip bags is making waves at Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truro.

Falmouth University graduate Florence Mitchell designed 'Olly' as a final-year Sustainable Product Design BA project, working with hospital staff to create a functional medical item that would bring comfort to young patients on the children's ward.

Moulded from Sterimelt, a polypropylene made from recycled hospital gowns, masks and curtains, Olly is three times stronger than a standard IV drip holder and accompanied by an app that brings him to life. "He's 100 per cent a best friend for children, who can find hospital lonely and intimidating," says Florence, who created the prototype with support from Falmouth's technicians and using the University's advanced design facilities. "I've had great feedback from the hospital teams and hope to further develop and improve the product. I'd love to see Olly in every children's ward."



Florence with Dr Rachel Millington and Olly on the ward at Truro.

LOVELAND PROJECT BRIDGES COMMUNITIES

The University of Exeter is working with Loveland, a community food growing project in Penryn that's part of Falmouth Food Co-op. Loveland offers a fun, creative and inclusive environment for local people, giving volunteers – including our students – the chance to learn and connect with nature and each other. The University's Bridging Communities scheme has funded a coordinator for Loveland's Saturday community sessions, as part of its research project.

Volunteers are welcomed on Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10am-3pm. Find out more at: falmouthfood.coop/loveland



Image supplied by Loveland

**SATURDAY CLUB OFFERS CREATIVE
OPPORTUNITY FOR CORNWALL TEENS**

See more inside



A CHANCE TO DEVELOP YOUR GREEN SKILLS

A new collaborative research project involving the University of Exeter, Cornwall will offer a programme of skills development workshops and courses to people in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly looking to progress within green careers. The £2.2m 'The Future is Green' initiative supports skills development and career progression to drive the transition towards good green growth. The project is part-funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

sites.exeter.ac.uk/greenskills

Right: Delegates on a green skills course visit turbines at Roskrow Barton.



NEW SUPPORT FOR MATURE STUDENTS

A Mature Access Pathway has been set up after University of Exeter analysis showed mature students can lack confidence in applying to higher education. The pathway is now offered at Truro and Penwith College and gives mature students in Cornwall access to our academic staff, mentors and current undergraduate students to help them get the information, advice and guidance needed to make an informed decision about their future. The pathway aims to help break down barriers to learning and widen participation in higher education.

Apply now at: exeter.ac.uk/students/wp-support/supportfor/maturestudents



PRIDE FLAG WELCOMED AT CAMPUS

The University of Exeter, Cornwall hosted the Cornwall Pride flag as part of its programme of support for the charity's work to promote equality and champion LGBTQ+ inclusion. Cornwall Pride provides support, celebration and awareness of LGBTQ+ and marginalised communities across Cornwall, championing their values of 'Love who you want to love' and 'Be who you want to be'. Students, staff and the community are working to create an inclusive environment where everyone can be themselves.

exeter.ac.uk/departments/inclusion/support/lgbtqplus



WILD SWIMMERS WANTED

At the University of Exeter, we're recruiting participants who regularly swim in UK rivers to help us understand how wild swimmers might acquire antibiotic-resistant bacteria, known as 'superbugs', in their gut microbiomes. To find out more, visit: ecehh.org/news/poo-sticks-river-swimming-study/



BRIGHTENING MENTAL HEALTH WARDS

Artists from Falmouth University are involved in the work of Hospital Rooms, a charity initiative that harnesses the power of art to improve mental health patient wellbeing. Academic staff Ben Sanderson, Maria Christoforidou and Lucy Willow are working on projects with Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to create artworks for the inpatient mental health wards in Redruth and Bodmin.

“The groundbreaking work undertaken by the charity thoughtfully applies Fine Art thinking to real world challenges, to create better hospital environments,” says Falmouth Fine Art BA course leader Jonty Lees.



BOOSTING SKILLS AT SATURDAY CLUB

Nearly 50 teenagers from across Cornwall completed their year with the National Saturday Clubs held at Penryn Campus this summer, in groups for Art & Design, Fashion & Business and Film & Screen. With free, practical sessions each week, using Falmouth University's facilities and supported by expert staff, the 13-16-year-olds enjoyed a unique opportunity to learn new skills, discover talents and explore career opportunities in the creative industries.

The club offers members the chance to exhibit at a spectacular final show at Somerset House in London and gain invaluable CV-building experience. As a result of taking part, one young creative gained a place on a British Film Institute residential course.

Saturday Club starts again soon! Find out more at: falmouth.ac.uk/national-saturday-clubs



CHILLS AND THRILLS

Drawing inspiration from the county's romantic and treacherous land and seascapes and its many myths and legends, *13 Cornish Ghost Stories* is a new anthology of haunting tales from contemporary writers. The spooky collection was edited by Falmouth lecturers Marie Macneill (Television & Film Production BA) and Dr Jo Parsons (Journalism & Creative Writing BA) and illustrated by Animation BA lecturer Derek Hayes. Find it on sale at Falmouth Bookseller.

TRAIN TO BECOME A SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION

Expand your understanding of sustainability business practices through an online short course with Falmouth University. Offered as part of the 'Future is Green' project, the one-day courses – Make Your Business Greener and Leading Sustainability Change In Business – will empower you to implement people and culture-focused sustainability initiatives in your business, organisation or local area.

falmouth.ac.uk/study/future-is-green-short-courses



EVENTS

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



DANCE 5-26 October

Ballet: adult beginners, Saturday mornings. Learn the fundamentals of classical technique.



FAMILY THEATRE 2 November

Jam Jar Theatre: *How a Jellyfish Saved the World*. A tentacle-tapping puppetry musical.



MUSICAL THEATRE 23 November

Gigglemug Theatre: *The Bean Spillers*. An uproarious improvised musical comedy, all about gossip.



MUSIC 30 November

Cara Dillon. The Irish folk singer performs live with acclaimed musician and producer Sam Lakeman.

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

It's a busy time of year for gardener Alasdair Garnett, who works with the Grounds team to keep the University campuses at their best year-round.

As well as the ancient yew tree at Falmouth Campus, Alasdair points out the many horticultural highlights at Penryn Campus – including an apple orchard, rare rhododendrons, one of the UK's oldest and best-preserved lime avenues and veteran oak trees planted centuries ago.



Alasdair's autumn tips

"In September, we trim hedges once the nesting season is over and cut and rake the wildflower areas," he says. "The pumpkins will be growing and we'll plant winter vegetables, such as kale and purple sprouting broccoli. It's a good time to tidy your garden ready for winter and plant trees, to allow root growth before springtime. If you can, avoid cutting back some areas to provide a habitat for wildlife and insects."



You can visit our beautiful campus grounds 365 days a year. If you're interested in volunteering to help the team manage these historic gardens and landscapes, drop us a line at: biodiversity@fxplus.ac.uk

CAMPUS LATE-NIGHT STUDENT EVENTS

14, 15 and 16 September

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

YOUR CAMPUS SPORTS CENTRE

Former teachers from local schools including Falmouth are playing Badminton to stay fit and well. The group, which meets twice a week at the Penryn Campus sports centre, has a long-standing tradition of catching up afterwards over a coffee at The Stannary. "It keeps us feeling young, active and sociable," says club member Gerry Curtis.

See the classes and sessions on offer at: fxplus.ac.uk/facilities-services/flexsi-sports-centre

OPEN DAYS

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

University of Exeter, Cornwall

Next Penryn Campus Open Day: Sat 12 October
exeter.ac.uk/study

Falmouth University

On-campus Open Days: Sat 5 and 26 October, Sat 2 November
falmouth.ac.uk/experience