

Community

Summer
2021

Keeping our community safe

Falmouth University and the University of Exeter are working hard to keep our campuses and the community safe, while delivering a high-quality academic experience so that students can progress in their studies.

Since the return of students studying practical courses last month, teaching has been delivered as a blend of in-person and online learning with access to workshops, labs, studios and other facilities on campus. Twice-weekly, on-site testing of students and staff; a rigorous approach to hygiene, social distancing and the wearing of face coverings, along with support to those self-isolating, have been key in maintaining the health and wellbeing of all.

Falmouth University and the University of Exeter are extremely proud of the close working relationships

we enjoy with local parish, town and Cornwall Council colleagues. Working together, sharing information and agreeing joint initiatives have ensured a consistent and coordinated approach to keeping everyone safe.

Students meet Universities Minister

Students' Union Presidents and students from both universities recently had the rare opportunity to meet online with Universities Minister, Michelle Donelan.

Organised by the Students' Union in conjunction with Cheryl Mackrory, MP for Falmouth and Truro, students were able to discuss key issues and have their questions answered on a wide range of topics.

Get in touch

If you would like to discuss any community issues, you can call the dedicated line on **01326 370737** or email **community@fxplus.ac.uk**.



Making space for nature in Cornish towns

The University of Exeter has been working with Cornwall Council on the Green Infrastructure for Growth 2 Project, part funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

This exciting project works with existing green spaces and road verges to improve them for wildlife and for people, by introducing rivers of wildflowers and riotous spring bulbs, tree planting and sensitively placed benches and picnic tables to allow people to relax and enjoy the sites. The University's role is to help monitor the impacts of the changes and to provide closer links between the University and Cornwall Council.

The designs for spaces in Falmouth and Penryn, as well as four other towns across Cornwall are available on the

project website: cornwall.gov.uk/spacefornature. We are hoping to run interactive events around the sites this summer. Email: spacefornature@cornwall.gov.uk to register your interest and we'll be in touch.



A Cornish World

On Friday 5 March the University of Exeter marked St Piran's Day with a Cornish World/Bys Kernow event exploring Cornwall's history and the part it plays within a global context. 186 attendees from around the world joined the online event for a series of presentations by speakers from the UK, USA and Australia. A Q&A was facilitated by Dr Garry Tregidga and Dr Joanie Willett, Co Directors of the Institute of Cornish Studies at the Penryn Campus. Find out more at exeter.ac.uk/ics

Tevi support continues until December 2022

Tevi has been granted a two-year project extension to continue supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to help them transition to more sustainable ways of working.

Tevi's unique offer helps to develop Cornwall's circular economy whilst supporting Cornwall's Environmental Growth Strategy. The work is led by the University of Exeter, delivered in partnership with the Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Cornwall Council and the Cornwall Development Company.

Over the last two years, Tevi has had several notable successes, such as finding solutions to pressing environmental challenges through the Tevi Challenge Network, supporting small businesses to find innovative ways of working more sustainably and distributing grant funding to support a variety of new projects.

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Filming starts on Enys Men

Hot on the heels of his BAFTA win for the film *Bait*, Falmouth lecturer Mark Jenkin is now shooting his next project *Enys Men*, supported by Film4 and Falmouth University's Sound/Image Cinema Lab.

The film, which is shooting in West Cornwall, is set in the 1970s on an imagined island off the coast of Cornwall. The horror story will centre on a woman haunted by echoes of both the past and the future.



Image: Steve Tanner

Falmouth University's economic contribution to Cornwall

Falmouth has recently commissioned an independent report, looking at the economic benefits it provides to the local community and Cornwall as a whole.

The study showed that Falmouth University acts as an economic anchor, keeping skilled and talented young people in the region. Falmouth has recently been named as the best university for business in the UK, producing the most students (almost a quarter) going on to lead or start up their own business.

Falmouth is also a major employer and purchaser in Cornwall, supporting more than 2,000 jobs in the county. In total, the University is responsible for generating £1 in every £109 of economic activity in Cornwall.

You can find the full report on the corporate pages of our website.

Connecting through creativity

You might have noticed an increase in artworks around Falmouth recently, thanks to Fine Art student Lily Peach-Forster who launched a new community arts project called *Street View Falmouth*. The project saw more than 80 homes and businesses display work from professional artists, students and local schoolchildren.

As well as strengthening ties between local artists and residents, and providing a literal window to showcase their work, Lily said that the aim was to spread joy and bring the community together during lockdown.

"It's very easy to feel isolated when you're stuck inside for large parts of the day. Getting people outside really helps with general wellbeing and mental health. Connecting people to an artistic environment is a really positive, creatively driven thing to do."



wAVE Project rolls out

Launching next month, the *wAVE (Augmented and Virtual Experiences) Immersive Experiences in Museums Project* will transform five Cornish museums, bringing their exhibitions to life with future tech.

A team of academics from Falmouth University worked with the Cornwall Museums Partnership and five participating communities in Bude, Looe, St Agnes, Porthcurno and the Isles of Scilly to support economic diversification through digital innovation.



Our environment

Encouraging our students to look after the local community and its environment is one of our top priorities. As students continue to return to campus, we are emphasising the importance of following social distancing guidelines, being respectful to neighbours and the physical environment, and behaving sustainably.

Sustainability week

Our week of events, which attracted a mix of students, staff and the general public, gave us inspiration to think and act more sustainably in everyday life. Session recordings will be made available on the Students' Union website: thesu.org.uk/sustainabilityweek.

Hedgehog-friendly campuses

We're celebrating Penryn and Falmouth campuses achieving a bronze award from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) Hedgehog Friendly Campus program. The project is a UK-wide initiative which aims to turn university campuses into places where hedgehogs can thrive.

Our beautiful campuses are open to the public, so please do visit and look out for the local wildlife!



Dates for the diary:

Penryn Campus Sports Centre

The gym at the Penryn Campus Sports Centre has reopened, and is planning on restarting classes from 17 May. For more information please email: sportscentre@fxplus.ac.uk

Open Days

If you're interested in studying in Cornwall:

Falmouth University:

The next virtual Open Day will take place on 15 May, with specialised Q&A sessions running between April and June. Find out more on our website: falmouth.ac.uk/events

Or take a virtual tour of both of our Falmouth and Penryn campuses: falmouth.ac.uk/experience

University of Exeter:

Online open day events will take place from 1-5 June 2021. Find out more on our website: exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit

Or take a virtual tour of our Penryn Campus: virtualltourcompany.co.uk/exeter_university

Bookable online chats with academics and current students are also available.

