

BRINGING YOU NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL UNIVERSITIES

# COMMUNITY

Winter 2025-26

## ROBOTIC WARTHOG TO SUPPORT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Falmouth University's robotics and prosthetics departments are collaborating with a University of Exeter, Cornwall Zoology PhD student to develop a robotic warthog. The project will support research in Uganda by enabling observation of interactions between banded mongooses and warthogs.

Leela Channer's PhD focuses on the only known symbiotic 'cleaning' relationship between mammals, where mongooses actively remove ticks from warthogs. This behaviour has been observed over the last 30 years but only within a single mongoose pack at the Uganda research centre. Inspired by BBC series *Spy in the Wild*, Leela enlisted the Falmouth teams to create a robotic warthog, to see if other packs would exhibit similar behaviours.

A life-size 3D model will be animated by the robotics students before the prosthetics team adds realistic skin and features, with completion expected by spring so Leela can begin her research. Falmouth Robotics lecturer Matt Watkins said: "This project offers students a chance to apply their skills to research with genuine scientific impact."



Left to right: Robotics lecturer Matt Watkins and student Adithi Jayaraman, PhD student Leela Channer and prosthetics lecturer Bradley Greenwood, with a mini mock-up of the warthog model

## CALLING YOUNG CREATIVES

The University of Exeter, Cornwall has launched the Tony Hibbert Prize, in partnership with Trebah Garden and the Hibbert family, to honour the Second World War veteran and celebrate creativity inspired by courage, resistance, tolerance and a love of history. Students in years 7-13 can submit creative work – writing, art, digital stories or films – on the theme "Cornwall at War". Three winners will each receive £100 in book tokens.

Visit: [hass-cornwall.exeter.ac.uk/tony-hibbert-prize](https://hass-cornwall.exeter.ac.uk/tony-hibbert-prize)



Landing ship tanks at Trebah beach



**£1.7 MILLION FUNDING BOOST FOR NEW  
TECHNICAL FACILITIES AT FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY**

See more inside





## PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR YEAR 12s

Our Centre for Net Positive Climate and Health Solutions and the European Centre for Environment and Human Health welcomed two A-level students for a two-week placement last year. Alongside researchers, they explored how climate change affects human health and social inequalities, contributing to our work on air pollution and health equity. The team was grateful for their insights and inspired by their commitment to building healthier, more resilient communities. The Nuffield Research placement scheme is hosted on Penryn Campus annually. Applications are open for local Year 12 students now.

Visit: [stem.org.uk/research-placements/students](https://stem.org.uk/research-placements/students)



Students using portable sensors to analyse air quality in different locations

## EXETER ACADEMICS RECOGNISED

Two academics from the University of Exeter, Cornwall have won Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society (RCPS) Medal Awards. Professor Karen Hudson Edwards was recognised for her work in sustainable mining and environmental clean-up using minerals and microbes, and Professor Chris Bass was commended for his work on insecticide resistance and targeting crop pests without harming beneficial insects. The awards champion excellence in sciences, industry and the arts, celebrating the range of exciting, innovative work taking place in Cornwall.



Professor Karen Hudson Edwards and Professor Chris Bass

## TRANSFORMING CORNWALL HEALTHCARE

A partnership between the University of Exeter and the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust (RCHT) has been renewed. The third iteration of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations is designed to advance world-class education and research, develop a skilled, research-active healthcare workforce across Cornwall and enhance population health. Visit [exeter.ac.uk/cornwall/news](https://exeter.ac.uk/cornwall/news)



Steve Williamson, RCHT Chief Executive, with Professor Lisa Roberts, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Exeter

## STUDENTS SUPPORT AIR AMBULANCE

Runners from Students' Union societies Cornwall Medsoc and Truro Runner Beans raised vital funds for the Cornwall Air Ambulance by running the Truro Half Marathon together, raising a grand total of £1,530. The Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust is a beacon of hope for those in need of urgent medical care across Cornwall. The charity operates entirely on donations and, last year alone, completed an incredible 1,064 missions to provide life-saving assistance to patients in critical situations.



Students with their medals at the end of their Truro Half Marathon fundraiser



## TECHNOLOGY FUNDING BOOST

New state-of-the-art design and advanced manufacturing facilities for students at Falmouth University will help drive the development of high-skilled industries in Cornwall, thanks to £1.4 million of funding from the Office for Students.

The investment will deliver a suite of cutting-edge facilities on Penryn Campus, enhancing the range of industry-standard equipment already available to students. Supported by an additional £375,000 investment from the University, the funding will enable the purchase of advanced tools including robotic 3D printing and production-grade 3D scanning equipment – now widely used across sectors including marine engineering, healthcare and construction. Find out more at: [falmouth.ac.uk/facilities-investment](https://falmouth.ac.uk/facilities-investment)



## FASHION FORWARD

Falmouth University is reimagining the future of fashion heritage using modern technology, after taking custodianship of a renowned collection of more than 40,000 garments dating back to the 1700s. Computer games, high-definition digital archiving and immersive visitor experiences were among techniques showcased at an event held to celebrate the relocation of the Devonshire Collection of Period Costume to a new £25,000 climate-controlled facility.

## FALMOUTH FILM MAKES WAVES

A film shot in West Cornwall by director Mark Jenkin, Falmouth University's Distinguished Professor of Film Practice, is captivating audiences and critics. Following a successful world premiere at the Venice Film Festival in September, *Rose of Nevada* is touring the global film festival circuit ahead of its UK release.

Actors George MacKay and Callum Turner lead in this eerie tale of a fishing boat lost at sea with all hands 30 years ago, which then appears in the derelict harbour it had set sail from. More than 30 students from the University's School of Film & Television joined the film's crew, across various departments.



## NEWS ROUNDUP

- Widow Twerkey's show-stopping dress for *Aladdin*, the Hall for Cornwall's Christmas panto, was once again created by students from Falmouth's Costume Design for Film & Television BA. The University's Post Production & Visual Effects BA students also animated the show with digital effects.
- Falmouth University's hospitality, event management and tourism courses have been ranked first in the *Guardian University Guide 2026*. The courses topped the subject area league table with a perfect score of 100 out of 100.



# EVENTS

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



**DANCE** 21 February  
Ekleido. Immerse yourself in a spellbinding display of acrobatics, bodily contortions, dazzling costumes and lights.



**THEATRE** 25 February  
The Freshwater Five. A powerful and poignant tale: five fishermen, £53 million of cocaine and an ongoing fight for justice.



**MUSIC** 14 March  
Anna Anise. A radiant new voice in modern folk – join the Cornish singer-songwriter and her band of musicians.



**FAMILY** 30 May  
Cinderella Ice Cream Seller. This musical retelling of a fairytale classic blends storytelling, live music and theatrical magic.

Visit [falmouth.ac.uk/arts-centre](https://falmouth.ac.uk/arts-centre) for info and booking.

## NEW YEAR FITNESS

Dive into 2026 at the Sports Centre gym on Penryn Campus – open early until late – or join a fitness class. Explore the full range of activities and hireable sports hall at [fxplus.ac.uk/facilities-services/flexsi-sports-centre](https://fxplus.ac.uk/facilities-services/flexsi-sports-centre)

Don't miss the free and fun Parkrun, every Saturday at 9am on campus. [parkrun.org.uk/penryncampus](https://parkrun.org.uk/penryncampus)



**CAMPUS CAFE TREATS** You're warmly invited to visit our campus cafes for snacks, lunches and cakes. Enjoy some great deals – there's a buy-one-get-one-free offer on hot drinks from 3-4pm in the Fox cafe on Falmouth Campus and the various cafes at Penryn, or try a tray bake with a hot drink for £5 at Penryn's ESI cafe, from 2-3pm.

## OPEN DAYS

Learn more about studying at our universities:

### Falmouth University

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

We're offering postgraduate drop-in days in January, February and March  
[falmouth.ac.uk/experience](https://falmouth.ac.uk/experience)

### University of Exeter, Cornwall

Penryn Campus Open Days: Saturday 7 March (postgraduate); Weds 27 May (undergraduate)

If you can't make an Open Day, come for a campus tour or a postgraduate visit afternoon  
[exeter.ac.uk/study](https://exeter.ac.uk/study)



## EXPERT'S CORNER

Fashion historian Dr Kate Strasdin has appeared as a BBC *Sewing Bee* expert, provided commentary on royal fashion trends and authored books including *The Dress Diary of Mrs Anne Sykes*. A lecturer at Falmouth's Fashion & Textiles Institute, Kate played a pivotal role in the University's acquisition of the Devonshire Collection of Period Costume.



### Kate's clothing care tips

"Dark, clean spaces are best for preserving garments in winter," says Kate. "Use wide hangers for larger items to allow air circulation but never hang woollens, as they'll lose shape. Fold them and layer with lavender sachets for freshness. To repel moths naturally, try cedar chips or a cloth infused with sandalwood oil. For long-term storage, vacuum-sealed bags save space and prevent moth damage, while acid-free tissue protects treasured pieces from damp and deterioration. If you have time on winter evenings, visible mending is a creative way to extend the life of your clothes. There are plenty of tutorials on YouTube to help you get started."



## WHAT'S IN BLOOM?



"Over the next couple of months, the first spring bulbs will begin to bloom," says Alasdair Garnett, a gardener with the Grounds team. "Snowdrops, cyclamen and crocus are the first to appear, so look out for them along the old drive at Penryn Campus and on the terraces above the Italian garden. In February, the hellebores in the walled garden should also come into flower. Winter is a great time to view the ancient trees along Lime Avenue and the nearby veteran oaks. Without their leafy canopy, the shapes of branches and the fissures and crevices – home to birds, bats and other wildlife – are easier to see."