

Sheila Oliner

SHEILA OLINER, painter and printmaker, who lived in Zennor from 1985 and had a studio in St Ives, has died in London, aged 89 on April 20th 2020.

Oliner was born in London in 1930 and at the age of 15 went to art school: first the Slade School of Fine Art, then City and Guilds. In the 1970s, she found time to bring up three children, work at Studio Prints, where she learnt printmaking from Dorothea Wight and whilst there made 84 plates for her friend, the painter, Philip Sutton. She also spent some time teaching art at the Camden Art Centre.

All this while also working as an independent artist whose subject matter, for both her paintings and prints addressed women's lives, observing her own, her children's, and friends' experiences and attitudes.

The move to Zennor in 1985 saw the subject matter of her prints change. Whilst the paintings continued to address women's issues – and the shared loo near her studio had a sign in Oliner's handwriting saying Cleaning is not women's work – her prints more often looked at the Cor-

nish landscape and her garden.

From the time she arrived in St Ives Oliner was an active member of the arts community. As well as being Printmaking Tutor at the Penzance School of Art for a number of years, she also initiated and organised a fundraising portfolio of prints for the new Tate St Ives, raising £12,000. A subsequent portfolio of linocuts raised £1,000 for the Tate Education Department as well as funds for her concept of a venue for a Print Studio as a professional resource for the general public as well as the art community.

A third portfolio raised funds for the Porthmeor Printmakers' Workshop and in 1995 the top floor of the Penwith Gallery was converted into a professional work space. It's still running.

As well as exhibiting widely in the UK Sheila Oliner also showed works in USA, Norway, Israel and Japan where she had particular success. As recently as 2016 her work was seen in the Wills Lane Gallery, St Ives.

Oliner was married to Berthold Oliner and separated in 1981. She is survived by three children.

Petronilla Silver Weschke



SHEILA Oliner

GPs ask people to use app to help track and slow down Coronavirus

GPS across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are urging people to use technology to help track and slow down the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Researchers at Kings College London and Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals launched the free COVID Symptom Tracker <https://covid.joinzoe.com/> which allows people to share vital information about their health. This real-time data will be used to study the virus and help health and care workers develop their response to the outbreak.

The app, developed in partnership with health science company ZOE Global Ltd, was endorsed by GPs and clinicians of NHS Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group's Clinical Cabinet, earlier this week.

It is also backed by Cornwall Council's Public Health professionals.

The app helps identify possible coronavirus infections by asking people to sign-up and then take one minute each day to self-report symptoms, even if they feel well, in an attempt to better understand the pandemic.

UNDERSTAND

To date 10,346 people across Cornwall have contributed to the research with an estimated 1% of people with coronavirus symptoms.

Dr Iain Chorlton, NHS Kernow chairman, said: "The more people who sign up to this app the better we will understand how to respond to the virus in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly."

"It gives us advanced warning of potential increase in demand, so we can flex and adapt our services to cope. This will be even more important once any lockdown measures are relaxed as COVID-19 is not going away soon and we will want to spot any upturn in an outbreak as soon as possible."

Rachel Wigglesworth, Cornwall's assistant director for Public Health, said: "I'd urge anyone with a smartphone to download the app and help us to learn more about this disease, and how many people in Cornwall are being affected. It takes a small amount of time, about one minute a day, and could really help us to learn more about the virus and provide early warning to our health and care system of new outbreaks."

FACT FILE

You should not leave your home if you have coronavirus symptoms. Symptoms include: A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature): A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot more for an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual). To protect others, do not go to places such as a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. Stay at home.

Use 111 online coronavirus service <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/> to find out what to do and only call 111 if you do not have access to the internet or cannot get help online.



ALICE Walton's coloured porcelain *Linn Ribbons* showing during the New Craftsman's May online exhibition.

Shaping the Future – new Royal College of Art graduate potters at New Craftsman

THROUGHOUT May, New Craftsman gallery, St Ives, is presenting an online exhibition of ceramics by three of The Royal College of Art's most promising new Masters graduates, alongside still-life paintings by rising young artist Will Calver.

Alice Walton graduated with an MA in Ceramics from the Royal College of Art in 2019. Her original ceramics forms are defined by incredibly complex surface textures and are inspired by both street furniture and architecture. Collaged photography and drawings of objects she encounters on her daily commute are the starting point for individual ceramic works, which are then grouped together to make curious imaginary scenes.

RESEARCH-DRIVEN

Chloe Rosetta Bell graduated with an MA in Ceramics from the Royal College of Art in 2019. Her current work is research-driven and is informed by a collaboration with two Michelin star restaurants. Her collections aim to forge physical and sensory connections between the restaurants, their suppliers, and the landscape from which ingredients are sourced. The glaze used in tableware created for one restaurant, for example, has been developed using waste oyster shells from Porthilly.

South Korean artist Hojung Kim graduated with an MA in Ceramics and Glass from the Royal College of

Art in 2019. Her work is inspired by ideas of global diversity, which she expresses through the movement of colours across surfaces and within a variety of forms. The vessel forms in her 'Flow' collection create a relationship with the space in which they sit, and with one another, and explore the harmonious drift of shapes and colours across this curated space.

Rising young painter Will Calver graduated from Falmouth University in 2019. Combining classical figuration with a freer hand, his still-life alla prima paintings explore the iconic presence of everyday objects and are made from direct observation and drawings. Spacious compositions and an extraordinary skill for interpreting light and form give these simple paintings of quince, lemons, peaches, pebbles and ceramic cups a beauty and power rarely seen in the contemporary art today.



POMEGRANATE & Palette by Will Calver.

MP urges people to stay away from his constituency

ST IVES MP Derek Thomas is urging the Government to change coronavirus control measures to ensure people don't travel to their second homes in west Cornwall.

Mr Thomas has received reports from a number of residents in local villages and towns concerned that people are still travelling down to Cornwall to stay at their second homes.

Having taken up the case with the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Inspector calling on them to clarify advice and increase their police presence, Devon and Cornwall Police have revised their guidance: "Do not travel to Devon and Cornwall. Please stay at home and do not undertake travel that isn't essential. We understand that people may have second homes in Devon or Cornwall but we urge you not to travel to them."

However, the police have stated to the MP that they have one arm tied behind their backs as the regulations haven't been tested in court.

"Although the gov.uk website

states: 'Essential travel does not include visits to second homes', there are a number of 'reasonable excuses' which I accept cloud the issue for the police," said Mr Thomas.

"They have done a great job in turning people back when they can but their job would be made easier if the regulations were tightened up."

GENUINE CONCERNS

"In Wales, they are strengthening the lockdown rules by making it clear people cannot remain away from the place they live in a bid to discourage people from using their second homes and I would welcome this sort of change being made in England as well."

Mr Thomas, who has spoken to Government ministers on the issue, added: "So many of the people who have contacted me about this are elderly and/or vulnerable and they have genuine concerns that they may be at risk from people travelling down here from other parts of the country."

Tregenna Castle fortifies future with £1m financing

AN HISTORIC hotel and resort in St Ives – which is one of the town's major employers – has secured financing to help it through the Coronavirus crisis after its hotel rooms, self-catering, leisure and events were forced to shut amid the lockdown.

Tregenna Castle Resort typically hosts 100,000 holidaymakers and 120 weddings a year. It usually employs 120 staff, which rises to 150 between April and October to cater for increased demand.

But with quarantine restrictions falling ahead of its busy season, Tregenna needed to prepare for a significant drop in revenue and it has now secured a £1 million loan from Lloyds Bank to help ensure the business' future.

The majority of Tregenna's staff are currently on furlough, but its new Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) financing gives the resort the financial flexibility to keep a skeleton staff of 15 on site, including security and maintenance contractors to help maintain the resort's 72 acres of grounds.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

The finance will also enable Tregenna to invest in its marketing activities to help attract bookings in preparation for reopening.

With the support of Cheltenham based hospitality marketing agency, Journey, Tregenna is keeping in touch with its customers and guests through its social media channels so it can bounce back when the crisis ends.

In the meantime the resort is giving back to those who are tirelessly providing care and services during this unprecedented time by offering a key worker giveaway, as a small way to say 'thank you', through a competition on its Facebook page.



TREGENNA Castle Resort in St Ives has secured a £1 million loan from Lloyds Bank to help ensure the business' future after it was forced to shut amid the Covid-19 lockdown.

Warning that some businesses might not re-open this year

IT IS the news workers in St Ives did not want to hear – many tourism related businesses in the town may not re-open this year even if the lockdown ends before the summer season.

Malcolm Bell, chief executive of Visit Cornwall, said if the Government persists with social distancing it would be almost impossible for some businesses to operate simply because of the quantity of people they cater for.

He added they hoped some restrictions could be lifted before the summer to help local businesses who are already reeling from the non-event which was Easter.

He said: "Cornwall is probably four or five times more dependent on tourism than other parts of the country – twice as dependent than Devon."

"To get the economy going is going to be a challenge – if we don't get anything back this summer it would leave another 40,000 people unemployed. Closing for a year is not something that Cornwall could survive."

"If you take a holiday park that has a limited number of caravans and facilities, they could open on a restricted basis. There is no reason why you can't open some businesses safely – not now, obviously, but when the restrictions start to be lifted."

"There will be some businesses which would be difficult to operate with the social distancing that would remain in place. Some will have to

This closes on Monday (May 4).

To help sustain income over the coming weeks, Tregenna is also launching a new takeaway delivery service from its Brasserie, with drinks and classic Cornish dishes on the menu for local residents.

The resort expects its self-catering accommodation to be the first to resume trading if quarantine restrictions are lifted on a phased basis. It plans to make contactless check-in available, with picnics and cream tea on offer to guests for delivery – keeping residents safe in compliance with social distancing measures, if still required.

John Mason, principal shareholder at Tregenna Castle Resort said: "The current situation is one that no business can effectively prepare for, but our senior team was braced for a major hit ahead of lockdown being implemented – giving them a head start for contingency planning."

"The support we've had has been beyond expectation. The team at Lloyds Bank responded to our situation with haste and the finance was quickly put in place. This allows us to plan with real confidence towards opening our doors again very soon."

Phil Davies, Relationship Director at Lloyds Bank said: "While completely necessary, lockdown measures have served a great blow to Tregenna's balance sheet, with holidays, weddings and conferences forced to cancel."

"As a significant local employer, the finance secured by the resort ultimately helps to ensure that a job will be there at the end of this term for its many hardworking staff. Meanwhile, Tregenna will be polished and ready to welcome back guests hungry for a getaway as soon as the time is right."

be mothballed until next year and there needs to be some thought as to how the Government will help those businesses.

"That would apply to those businesses that have a lot of volume, with a lot of people in close proximity. For example in London you would consider large tourist attractions like Madam Tussauds and London Dungeon."

On the other hand he stressed businesses should only be allowed to open if it was safe to do so.

He pointed out it was not just the sole holiday trader that was going to suffer but all their suppliers as well.

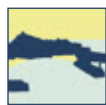
HAVING AN IMPACT

"For every two jobs in tourism another job depends on it – the fact that people are not coming here is having an impact on all businesses. A third of all the money spent by tourists goes into other parts of the economy."

He added: "We have got people in small B&Bs who have to pay council tax and have been excluded from support and have problems as they are self-employed. We are still lobbying to get help for them."

"People are also wanting refunds and even if they have got a grant that is not helping them to pay back fees immediately – customers are demanding their money back."

"We are asking the Government to look at giving 90 days to pay a refund and not the current 14 days."



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National attention as councillor continues to expose second homes grant scandal

SOME 5,000 second home owners who have registered their Cornish property as a holiday let have received grants under the Government's Coronavirus business support scheme, according to Cornwall Councillor Cornelius Olivier (Penzance Central). He says this totals more than £50 million of the money paid out by Cornwall Council so far. Many of those who have received these grants run their properties as a properly constituted holiday letting business, but a proportion are not widely viewed as genuine businesses.

As reported in this newspaper last week, legislation allows second home owners to qualify as a business by saying their property is available for rent for 140 days a year; they need only rent it for 70 days. However, there are no checks, so the system is open to exploitation. By registering for business rates, rather than council tax, the properties can qualify for relief of up to 100%, thus allowing owners to avoid paying any rates at all.

This notorious loophole, originally brought to the attention of the Government by former St Ives MP Mr Andrew George, was never plugged, despite promises from the Government. Now those receiving business rate relief qualify for the Government's Coronavirus business support grant funding – including the second homers.

GRAB CASH

Cllr Olivier says that the situation is 'scandalous' and has raised the issue nationally, receiving extensive coverage both in the printed media and online.

Last Friday Cllr Olivier released figures that showed the government had allocated £282 million to Cornwall Council for distribution to 24,000 local businesses in commercial sectors shut down by the current emergency. The Council is paying out this money through business grants to SMEs of £10,000 or £25,000, depending on the rateable value of the business premises.

"It turns out that some 8,000 of the 'businesses' eligible for £10,000, according to Government rules, are 'holiday lets', over 5,000 of these have received more than £50 million out of the money paid out so far," Cllr Olivier reported.

"Though some of these holiday lets could perhaps be described as genuine businesses, most are not, they are second homes whose own-

ers have been exploiting a tax loophole to dodge paying both Council Tax and Business Rates and are now using it to grab cash which they don't need and should be stopped from getting.

"It seems likely that in some parts of Cornwall, second homes will be receiving more from this scheme than all the local businesses put together. It is scandalous that so much money is being wasted in this way when so many local businesses are in much greater need of it."

FINANCIAL FIASCO

Cllr Olivier is asking the local MPs and Cornwall Council to put pressure on the Government to take action on the issue: "If they had previously tried harder to stop the tax dodge, this financial fiasco might have been avoided," he added. "I am frustrated that both the Council Leadership and Cornish MPs seem to have little to say about this scandal."

The inability to distinguish between second homes and holiday lets has not helped the situation. The catch-all phrase 'second home owners' is a generalisation. It ranges from indigenous Cornish people, born and bred in St Ives, who despite having to go away to earn a living have managed to hang on to their family home, to wealthy new urban incomers who 'collect' Cornish property as a 'bricks and mortar' investment seldom even using it for accommodation.

Some of those running holiday lets have been upset by Cllr Olivier's remarks. One told *The St Ives Times & Echo*: "Councillor Olivier quotes figures that make no distinction between owners of properties which are genuinely run as self catering holiday accommodation and those who are merely second home owners, not properly used as holiday lets, who are flouting the rules in order to claim the money. Even worse, he then goes on to claim that neither category should be given the grant aid."



THE new Community Pantry being installed and stocked earlier this week. pictures submitted

Community Pantry launched in St Ives

THE latest community initiative to support those in need during the current virus crisis has just been launched.

A Community Pantry was installed on Trenwith Lane, St Ives close to the veterinary surgery, under the banner of 'Give what you can, take what you need'.

The pantry is made from reclaimed pallets by local craftsman Julius Bull, The Salty Carpenter, and is stocked with a range of food and hygiene items as well as children's books and games.

All of the pantry stock has been donated by the community and the items are free for people to take as you need and to restock when you can.

MOST WANTED ITEMS

The idea is part of a range of volunteering and support initiatives arising from the local Extinction Rebellion (XR) group and is neither led nor owned by any individual.

Launched on Monday 28th April, many items had already been taken from the pantry with many others replaced by the following morning.

If you would like to donate to the pantry, the most wanted items are canned foods, particularly soups, proteins such as beans and tinned tuna; dried foods like pasta and rice; hygiene items like soaps and female hygiene products and things to entertain children through these long, house bound days including books and puzzles.

A group member commented: "It's a beautiful idea, that will see people both giving and taking as needed."

"Do please give what you can and take what you need. And if you really like the idea, why not set up your own Community Pantry where you live?"

St Ives now home to the poorest in Cornwall

WARNING signs that St Ives is becoming split down the centre in the economic stakes have been brought home in the latest Government statistics which show more than a third of children are being brought up in a state of poverty.

Despite St Ives' wealthy facade, with rising house prices and growing living costs it appears the gap between the haves and have-nots continues to grow with people in whole sections of the town now clearly struggling to keep going.

The Higher Stennack area is where the concern lies. Huge swathes of streets in the higher part of town have been highlighted in the Government report which shows people living in this area are among the most impoverished in the country. The situation has deteriorated since the last figures were released in 2018.

WORST AREA

36 per cent of children are living in poverty in the Higher Stennack area which makes it the worst area in the whole of Cornwall.

It is in stark contrast to other areas of the town where properties regularly sell for prices nudging the one million pound mark.

Second in the ranking is Bodmin which has a poverty level of 33.8 per cent.

As if the situation is not bad enough already, it has been forecast that things are about to take a turn for the worse.

Judith Cavanagh, coordinator of the End Child Poverty coalition, said: "These figures from Government show the extent to which we have been failing children in poverty even before the outbreak of coronavirus."

"We have not all entered this crisis equally. Children in poverty will be among the worst affected by the crisis

Uncertain future for Bay Hotel

THERE was doubt over the future of the St Ives Bay Hotel on The Terrace in St Ives after owners Shearings put insolvency practitioners on standby as it began to search for a rescue deal to save 2,500 jobs.

Specialist Leisure Group (SLG), which owns Shearings, has filed a notice of intention to appoint administrators to a number of subsidiaries, including Shearings and UKBreakaways.com

Sources said on Friday that EY, the accountancy firm, had been lined up to handle the insolvency process, which gives the leisure companies 10 days of breathing space in which to find new backers.

GRINDING HALT

Some divisions, and the parent company, are not subject to the notices of intention to appoint administrators.

PricewaterhouseCoopers has been working with SLG and its shareholder, the US-based private equity firm Lone Star, on efforts to secure a rescue deal.

Like other leisure companies, SLG has seen revenues brought to a grinding halt by the coronavirus pandemic.

It also owns the Bay Hotels chain, UKBreakaways.com, which operates self-driving tours, and Sportingbreaks.com, a hub for organised trips to events including the British Grand Prix at Silverstone, and Wimbledon.

TIDE TABLE

1	F			12.11	12.8
2	Sa	00.50	13.1	13.43	13.1
3	Su	02.14	14.1	14.54	14.4
4	M	03.17	15.7	15.49	16.1
5	Tu	04.08	17.4	16.35	17.4
6	W	04.53	18.4	17.17	18.7
7	Th	05.36	19.4	17.59	19.4

Depths in feet at Smeaton's Pier, St Ives.

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