



Our charity shops have reopened and along with encouraging you all to visit us and have a look at what we've got, I would also like to take the opportunity to highlight the immense amount of work that our charity shop team undertook to get us up and running again.

Reopening any store or service during Covid-19 is a massive undertaking; social distancing measures, hygiene and infection control all need to be thought about and applied so that we can ensure the safety of our customers and our staff. In a small (and popular) charity shop, with minimal floor space, this can be a logistical nightmare!

That's why I've been so impressed by the enthusiasm and creativity our shop staff have shown as they've tackled the problem. They worked flat-out for 2 weeks prior to reopening and within the first week were inundated with donations (which presents its own challenge, when we must quarantine these goods for 3 days before selling) and returning customers.

The importance of their work can't be understated. Our charity shops are a vital source of funding for the treatment we provide and during their closure we lost an estimated £3000 of income. Without the efforts of Jackie, Sally, Sheila and Lesley we could easily have lost a lot more.

Like all of us, charity shops have needed to adapt to the times but we're happy to be back in the community, so please come in, say hello to our amazing staff and take a look at what we have.

~ Adrienne Arthurs, Chief Executive

Inspired by the work of our charity shop team? We're looking for someone to donate a few hours of their time every week to help them out, and we're also looking for a Saturday and Relief Manager for both of our shops. Check out the roles by clicking [here](#).

A reminder of why we are here... A testimonial:

"I have had some bumps on my journey in recovery and it's not easy but I have hope today, hope for me is all I need, because I never felt hope in my past before The Living Room."

Notes of Appreciation

Many thanks to the Garfield Weston Foundation who have awarded us a much needed £25,000 so we can continue to support those in need.

Thank you to everyone from the St. Albans Abbey mission fund who donated an amazing £1000.

We are very grateful for the £500 donation from The Follett Trust based in Stevenage.

Thanks to everyone who nominated us for the Ecclesiastical Movement for Good Award - we were one of 500 charities to receive a £1000 award.

Thank you to Paul Albert for his ongoing challenge to ride the equivalent of Route 66 (2,280 miles!) over the next six months to raise money for The Living Room - he's halfway towards his £1000 goal so take a look and give him your support over at [Virgin Money Giving](#).

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Better late than never! We're holding our birthday quiz night on **Thursday 30th July at 7:30pm** using Zoom.

The Living Room started on May 2nd 2000 and we were due to celebrate with a quiz night in April and afternoon tea in May, until lockdown scuppered those plans.

This is a fresh chance to get together and join the local community in celebrating our 20th birthday, albeit later than planned.

The quiz will be an epic pop culture journey through the last two decades. Tickets are £5 and can be found on our [website](#). And you can form a group of up to 8 people.

We would be massively grateful if you could help us spread the word – Bring your family. Tell your friends. Share online. Help bring everyone together for a great time. See you soon!

20th Birthday Quiz Night

20,000 Steps

Congratulations to Natalie, who has met her fundraising target and raised £300 for The Living Room during lockdown. Natalie, who is our Crèche Supervisor, walked 20,000 steps per day for 20 days.



Thank you so much for everything you do Natalie and thanks to everyone who donated.

Storytime with Natalie

Our crèche team have been getting creative during lockdown, providing educational activities via Zoom for the children who we usually look after in Stevenage.

They have now started filming classic stories like The Tiger Who Came to Tea and uploading them to YouTube for parents and children to watch at any time.

Check out the first two videos [here](#) and keep up-to-date with all the goings on with the crèche by following them on [Facebook](#).

Hertfordshire Matters

Our Chief Executive Adrienne was a guest speaker at the Hertfordshire Community Foundation (HCF) launch of Hertfordshire Matters – a Hertfordshire needs report about deprivation, housing, crime and safety, strong communities, education and work and the environment.

Adrienne spoke about the work we do and the impact of the funding we receive from HCF, including the recent funding we received to help raise awareness of our treatment in the local prisons and amongst Criminal Justice staff.

You can learn more and read the report [here](#).

