

Spring is upon us. The word spring refers to the season, and to ideas of rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection, and regrowth. It is time to uncoil and grow and look forward to new opportunities as we begin to enjoy warmer weather and lighter evenings. This is also a time for reconnecting with people who bring positivity and with whom you share a mutual respect.

Adrienne, Chief Executive



High Sheriff Award

In March, we were honoured to join a select group of Hertfordshire charities to receive the **High Sheriff of Hertfordshire Award** at a glittering ceremony.

This year, Sally Burton DL, the High Sheriff for 2022 – 2023 and her panel put a special focus on charities that help people with mental health matters, particularly those dealing with drugs and alcohol addiction.

It was a huge honour for The Living Room to be recognised and deemed to be one of the charities to have contributed to making Hertfordshire a safer and better place to live.

Our Charity Shops are Merging

We are excited to tell you that our Living Room Charity Shops, at The Glebe in Stevenage, will be merging to create one big and fabulous family shop.

This summer we are going to expand and refurbish the main shop and reopen it with a brand new space for children's clothes, toys and other items. This will give us the opportunity to refresh and renew the entire space with new flooring, lighting, shelving and display units.

The past year has been busy and fruitful for both shops, so now this is also an opportunity to thank our Senior Shop Manager Sally, and shop managers and volunteers for their continued dedication. This merger gives us an opportunity to build on that success to continue to be a small but vital source of income to The Living Room, and an important asset to the community in the coming years.



Life at The Living Room

'I've been learning how to tell the truth, no matter how difficult it sometimes seems to do it.
I've been learning that I can make mistakes, but that I am not a mistake.'



Charity Golf Day

We'd love you to join us for our very first **Charity Golf Day**. Help us break the cycle of addiction for many Hertfordshire families with a game of golf in the idyllic countryside at Aldenham Golf Course on Friday 15th September 2023.

You'll be competing against other teams and our pro to help raise funds for The Living Room. Whether you want to enjoy a fantastic day with your colleagues, corporate clients, friends and family, you can book with us and have the chance to take home our Golf Day trophy.

Congratulations Jackie...

This month we say **Happy Anniversary** to Jackie who has been with The Living Room for 20 years! Thank you for all your hard work, dedication and support over the years Jackie – it is a wonderful achievement.

Back in 2003, Jackie began as a volunteer, before joining the team permanently, and is often referred to as the backbone of The Living Room. Over the years, she has seen thousands of clients come through the doors of The Living Room and there is always love in her heart for them all. Huge congratulations Jackie. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with you, from people who have been connected to The Living Room, past and present.



Thank you and Farewell to our Herts Hub

At the end of March, we said thank you and goodbye to the **Herts Hub**, our dedicated online counselling platform supporting clients who were unable to attend one of our local hubs.

The Herts Hub began its life in 2020 in response to the pandemic and the first lock down, when we had to switch our entire service to Zoom. It was funded with grants from The Postcode Lottery, Lloyds Bank Foundation, Collective Voice and The National Lottery.

We would like to thank all the organisations that have funded the Herts Hub and, of course, all the counsellors and staff who have dedicated so much time and effort to making it work.

The Big Help Out

To mark His Majesty The King's Coronation on Saturday, 6th May, we are joining thousands of organisations across the country that are getting together to help out in our own local communities.

If you'd like to roll up your sleeves and join us, our staff and volunteers of The Living Room will be at Chells park armed with gloves, rubbish bags and litter pickers on the afternoon of Thursday, 11th May. This tidy up will be led by one of our counsellors, and is a great opportunity for us all to get involved, do our bit and be part of something amazing going on around the country.



Thank You



As a local charity we rely on donations and grants to continue to deliver our services. We are very thankful to everyone who donates either as a single or **regular giver**. Your generous support helps us to break the cycle of addiction in Hertfordshire.

We want to give a special shout out to the people and organisations who have donated to us over the past month:

Stevenage Police Tuck Shop - £100
St Hugh & St John - £56
Councillor Marilyn Devonish - £300
All Saints Church Datchworth - £343.75

Knebworth Family of Churches - £97.76
Wedding Present Donations - £75
Trinity Church Knebworth - £104.45
Christchurch PCC - £500