

It's time to tell us your top boozer

PUBS are set to be given the green light to prepare to reopen next month, but where will you be going for a pint when the lockdown restrictions are eased further?

The Prime Minister announced a reduction in the two-metre social distancing rule on Tuesday, making it easier for pubs to reopen on July 4.

We recognise the role that pubs play as a focal point for their communities and want to support them as part of our campaign to back local businesses.

We want you to tell us about your favourite local pub, what makes it special and why would you encourage others to give it a visit.

All you have to do is visit eppingforestguardian.co.uk/my/ccn/questionnaire/pB3Qjmf3 and return the form with a picture of your favourite pub.

We'll feature as many as possible over coming weeks.

Hospice thanks public for response during lockdown

Appeal raised more than £120,000 as events were postponed and shops shut

By Daisy Smith

A FUNDRAISING initiative launched to help a hospice charity keep vital funds coming in during lockdown raised more than £100,000 within three months.

The St Clare Hospice's Urgent Fundraising Appeal was set up in March to help the West Essex and East Hertfordshire hospice charity, which provides specialist palliative care for people living with terminal or life-limiting illnesses.

The appeal has managed to raise more than £120,000, which will be used to help minimise the negative impact of the pandemic on the charity's fundraising efforts.

Due to coronavirus, the charity had to postpone events and temporarily shut its chain of charity shops impacting its voluntary income.

St Clare Hospice's director of income generation, Rosie Knowles, said: "As an independent charity, St Clare is heavily reliant on the support of our local community and we could see in March, just as the pandemic began to unfold, that our voluntary income would be hard-



St Clare Hospice has said it could still face a £600,000 gap in fundraising and retail income. Credit: St Clare

hit." The charity also received a large reaction from the community for its personal protective equipment (PPE) appeal, with more than 100,000 items donated, including scrubs, face masks, visors and hand sanitiser.

Rosie said the response to the appeal was "awe-inspiring" but said despite the

amount raised the charity could still see a "potential £600,000 hole" in fundraising and retail income.

Rosie added: "There is a long road ahead for the hospice as, in the twelve months from the coronavirus lockdown beginning, we are predicting a £400,000 gap in our usual fundraising income and £200,000 less coming in through our shops and eBay."

"Although the appeal has helped to soften the blow, we will still be faced with a potential £600,000 hole

"£600,000 is the equivalent of not being able to fund our Inpatient Unit, which provides vital care for people with life-limiting conditions and those at the end of their life, for over 15 weeks.

"Whatever people can donate today to our will help to ensure that we can continue to be here, providing much needed expert care for the people who need us most."

To find out more about the appeal, go to: stclarehospice.org.uk/recovery-fund.



Good news!! Atkins Physiotherapy is open and ready to safely welcome you back to the practice for face to face appointments.

Rest assured, we have put in place strict Covid-19 secure protocols based on government guidelines to keep all patients and staff safe.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you in the practice again soon.

see our larger advert on the next page

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Abbey Burke in the pose from Whistler's painting Arrangement in Grey and Black No.1

School ready to meet new pupils online

CHILDREN moving to secondary school in September are meeting their teachers via the internet. With schools likely to remain closed to most students until after the summer break, the transition of Year 6 children into their first year at secondary has had to be adapted.

Those due to join Year 7 in September are already in regular contact with Epping St John's Church of England School. With face-to-face events cancelled due to coronavirus, the school has replaced 'transition evening' by sending out the presentation for families to watch at home and

inviting students and parents to sign up to a virtual Q&A session. Head of school Michael Yerosimou said: "It is difficult for Year 6 students right now. We understand it can be a daunting time and so we want to reassure them that we are planning for every eventuality."