



BTS NDRC

Source : www.bbcnews.com

Titre : **Traders Hope Shoppers Return for Christmas after Lockdown**

Date : :December 2nd, 2020

Nom de l'auteur :

Nombre de mots : 424

Traders Hope Shoppers Return for Christmas after Lockdown

Many businesses are getting ready to welcome back customers after four weeks of closure. When England's new tier system comes into force on Wednesday, shops, gyms and personal care services, like hairdressers, can reopen, if they are Covid- secure.

5 But pubs and bars in tier¹ three will be unable to open and only if they serve a "substantial meal" under two.

Sarah Wright, Josh Rogers and Lauren Dalglish had arranged the opening of their new store, Under One Roof, in Oswestry, Shropshire for 4 November. Then England's second lockdown was announced from 5 November. They opened for one day, closed the next and spent lockdown photographing products so they could offer an online click and collect service.

10 But, Sarah Wright said, this had only offered steady sales during the closure. "Lots of people messaged to say weren't going to do click and collect, they were waiting for the shop to reopen and we will be inviting people in from 09:30," she said. "Everyone's work is so individual it is really hard to get across on the internet." Tuesday was spent rearranging the shop layout and adding items to shelves ready for people to come in and Ms Wright said they were feeling "really optimistic". They are thinking of opening for seven days a week in the run-up to Christmas.

20 Gift shop Wyle Blue World, in Shrewsbury, normally thrives in November but this year, Belinda Griffiths is worried shoppers have gone online. But, she said, she has been boosted by promises from her customers that they will continue to support small, independent businesses. "I am anxious, having been closed for a month, November is the busiest month of the entire year," she said. "We are all a bit apprehensive that while customers have been in lockdown for the last month, have they been buying on Amazon? Have they spent their money? "I am excited but anxious, I am just hoping that people will come out and support us...so mixed feelings...really hoping we are going to be busy." But she said the lockdown has brought the independent businesses together as a community, and all are "excited" about reopening.

30 For Hillers Gifts and Interiors November has been "dire". Sally Haines is hoping a review of tiers will allow their restaurant to reopen. The gift shop is one of several businesses run by the family in Alcester, Warwickshire, and while the farm shop has remained open during lockdown, their restaurant will stay shut as the county is in tier three.

¹ Niveau d'alerte