

Embargoed until 1st July 2019



FIGHTING FOR FUTURES EVENT AT IWM DUXFORD RAISES AN IMPRESSIVE AMOUNT FOR LEPROSY CHARITY

UK-based, international charity Lepra raised an impressive £30,000 in pledges during their Fighting for Futures fundraising event earlier this week. The event, attended by His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO as Vice President of Lepra, brought together local businesses and supporters of the charity to raise awareness of the devastating effects of leprosy in the hope to raise much needed funds for those affected by the disease.

HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO gave a short speech to the guests, highlighting the important work Lepra does for those affected by leprosy. Lepra ambassador and broadcaster Stuart Miles talked about his experience of visiting Lepra's Blue Peter Health and Research Centre in India in 2018, and how the Colchester charity helps to find, diagnose and treat people affected by the often misunderstood, yet curable disease.

Charles Bland, Chair of Trustees at Lepra commented:

"The event was a huge success, and I would personally like to thank everyone who attended and pledged their support in helping us to beat leprosy. The pledges will be used as part of our upcoming '£1 from you, we get two' campaign in September, where donations will be matched by the pledges raised prior to the autumn campaign. We would especially like to thank HRH, The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO for his unwavering support as Vice President of Lepra."

Although many people still believe that leprosy no longer exists, more than 600 people a day are diagnosed with the disease, with over 50 of these cases being children. All the money raised from the event will be used to contribute to the ongoing support of leprosy sufferers in India, Bangladesh and Mozambique.

Lepra held its first '£1 from you, we get two' appeal in September 2018 and raised an impressive £127,000. The appeal returns in September 2019.

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Notes for Editors

About Lepra and leprosy

Lepra is a UK-based international specialist charity that has been working to beat leprosy since 1924. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II became Patron of Lepra in 1952, shortly after the death of her father King George VI, who had been Lepra's Patron since the charity was founded in 1924.

Leprosy affects over 7 million of the most vulnerable people in the world, causing life-changing disabilities and attracting terrible prejudice and discrimination. **But there is a cure.**

Lepra works to beat leprosy in India, Bangladesh and Mozambique by finding, diagnosing and treating people affected by the disease. By raising awareness, pushing for early detection and supporting people living with disabilities caused by leprosy, Lepra works towards a day when this disease no longer destroys lives.

Last year, the charity reached 301,000 people through diagnosis, treatment and care. It reached a further 1.7 million people through health education and events to raise awareness of leprosy and other neglected diseases.

Find out more about Lepra on its website and social media channels:

Website: www.lepra.org.uk

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LepraUK>

Facebook: <https://https://www.facebook.com/LEPRAUK/>

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/LEPRAHinA>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/LepraUK/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/lepra/>