

May 2019

### **LOCAL CHAIRTY PUTS BEST FOOT FORWARDS IN SOCKS AND SANDALS WEEK LAUNCH**

Local charity, Lepra, is excited to launch a special socks and sandals week from 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May, encouraging the public to take part by wearing their funkiest socks and sandals combination all to raise much needed funds to help diagnose people in India, Mozambique and Bangladesh with leprosy, along with providing a cure and any post treatment care that they may need. The Colchester based charity put their best foot forwards earlier this week by all wearing their snazziest socks and sandals to the office, to mark the beginning of socks and sandals week.

Leprosy affects 600 people per day, with 50 of these being children. Leprosy often damages the nerves in the feet, leaving people susceptible to injuries and ulcers. Lepra provides protective, custom-made sandals to help people walk comfortably without fear of injury. These simple sandals cost just £3 to make and help children return to school, and adults rebuild their lives.

Each pair of sandals is carefully designed for each individual, providing comfort and encouraging early healing of wounds and ulcers, whilst also preventing further injury and disability. Something as simple as having shoes that fit can contribute to restoring a person's dignity and making them feel comfortable in their community again. Last year we provided more than 30,000 pairs of protective shoes to people with leprosy and lymphatic filariasis, and with your help we can provide more this year.

Find out how you can get involved in our Socks and Sandals week: <https://www.lepra.org.uk/socks-and-sandals>

**END**

**For more information please contact:**

Laura Butler – Communications and Marketing Manager

[laurab@lepra.org.uk](mailto:laurab@lepra.org.uk) -01206 216752

**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](http://www.lepra.org.uk)

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

Facebook: <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/>

<b>Newspaper</b>	<b>Date Sold</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Date Chased</b>
Newsquest	24/04/2019	Y 24/04	
Essex TV	24/04/2019	Y Published 25/04	
East Anglian Daily Times	24/04/2019		
Good News Shared (Charity)	24/04/2019		