

Legal eagles join big bike ride for NSPCC

By **Katharine Lawley**

business@salisburyjournal.co.uk

SOLICITORS from Salisbury, Southampton and Bournemouth swapped their business suits for cycling gear to pedal around the New Forest in aid of NSPCC.

The group of collaborative family lawyers, some joined by partners, set out from the cycle hire shop at Brockenhurst train station on the 21-mile circular route, much of it off-road.

They wore white T-shirts featuring the NSPCC Big Bike Ride logo and the slogan 'Collaborative Family Lawyers – doing it altogether better'.

Among those taking part were Caroline Frost of Whitehead Vizard, Andrew Mercer and Lisa Carter of Trethowans, Amanda Bryant and Jason Copp of Bonallack & Bishop, Tina Coward of Sampson Coward, and Emma Wilders-Pratt and Tricia Gower of Parker Bullen, all in Salisbury.

The solicitors are trained in collaborative law, the process whereby separating and divorcing couples and their legal representatives work as a team, rather than as opponents, to resolve the couples' differences.

Mrs Frost, head of Whitehead Vizard's family department, said that the Salisbury group raised about £1,500 and a further £1,000 was



Solicitors from different firms in Salisbury, Bournemouth and Southampton met at Brockenhurst Railway Station to start a bike ride across the New Forest to raise funds for the NSPCC.

Picture by: Ian Jackson. DB2279P3

collected by the Southampton and Bournemouth lawyers.

"It was good fun, but we were pretty exhausted by the end of it," she said. "Just before we started it was spitting with rain, but it held off for the ride.

"We had a few punctures and a

bike chain fell off, but everyone finished.

"The fastest time was about two hours."

Mrs Frost said that a number of people stopped them to ask about collaborative family law as well as the NSPCC Big Bike Ride appeal.