

**Press release with pictures:** for immediate release

**Date:** 14th July 2016

**Clinton Devon Estates’ pedal power raises over £4000 for Exeter cancer charity**

In a true test of team stamina, a group of cyclists from Clinton Devon Estates have pedalled over 1000 miles to raise well over £4000 for Exeter’s FORCE Cancer Charity.

The team of staff, business associates and family joined more than 1000 cyclists on Sunday June 26 to take part in the annual cycle challenge The Nello.

Nine of the team tackled the 100-mile course, starting and finishing at Topsham Rugby Club and taking in steep climbs up on to Exmoor, and two pedalled the challenging 55-mile circuit.

John Varley, Estates Director at Clinton Devon Estates and one of the Nello team, said: “Cancer is a disease that affects so many and we each had our own personal reasons for taking part. Clinton Devon Estates really believes in supporting the community and charities like FORCE rely on fundraising to enable them to deliver the amazing services they provide.

“The team at FORCE were fantastic; the event was brilliantly organised and everyone had a great day. It was really touching to see hundreds of people giving up their day to volunteer and to see thousands more take part in the challenge to raise money for the charity.

“Everyone from our team was back just after 5pm and one member of staff even completed the challenge after suffering three punctures!”

Founded in 1987, FORCE provides face-to-face support and information to anyone who has been affected by cancer. For almost thirty years the charity has been funding local research and buying essential equipment to improve patient care.

FORCE works in collaboration with the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, and in 2004 opened a cancer Support and Information Centre to provide physical, emotional, psychological and practical support for people at a difficult time in their lives.

Head of Fundraising at FORCE Cancer Charity, Sarah Daniels, said: “Everyone at the Nello wanted to raise money to support somebody they know who has been affected by cancer – patients, carers, family and friends. Our cyclists understood just how important fundraising is to us, it enables us to continue to provide unique face-to-face support here in Exeter, in Tiverton, in Okehampton and hopefully further afield by the end of the year.

“The day of the ride was amazing, the atmosphere was so friendly, relaxed and happy. FORCE is grateful to everyone who was involved and to volunteers who put in a real team effort to make the 17th Nello a huge success.”

In 2013 Clinton Devon Estates entered a team for the Commando Challenge in Lympstone raising nearly £3,000 for local charities.

The Nello team included the following staff from Clinton Devon Estates: Farm Worker Darren Pearce, Accounts Assistant Gaynor Hayne, Estates Director John Varley, Forestry and Environmental Manager John Wilding, Game Keeper Kevin Brosnan, Management Accountant Michael Phillips and Partners to the Estate; Iestyn John from Bell Cornwell, Maintenance Contractor Colin Newell, Personal Trainer Neil Erikson from Smile Fitness, Nina Wilding wife of John Wilding and Richard Harker husband of Fiona Harker.

**You can still show your support for FORCE Cancer Charity and the team from Clinton Devon Estates by visiting the Clinton Devon Estates** [**Virgin Giving**](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=ClintonDevonEstates&isTeam=true) **page.**

For more information on Clinton Devon Estates visit [www.clintondevon.co.uk](http://www.clintondevon.co.uk). To find out more about FORCE Cancer Charity visit their website [www.forcecancercharity.co.uk](http://www.forcecancercharity.co.uk) and for specific details on The Nello 2016 bike ride visit <http://www.forcecancercharity.co.uk/events/the-nello/> or **watch the FORCE Nello 2016 video** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pk7x_3Oqc-4>

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**About Clinton Devon Estates**

Clinton Devon Estates is involved in farming, sustainable forestry and timber products, deer management and residential property. It has a portfolio of commercial property across the South West and provides one of the region’s best equipped equestrian event venues at Bicton. It also owns commons at Woodbury which form the major part of the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest).

Clinton Devon Estates has been awarded the prestigious Queen’s Award for Enterprise in the category of Sustainable Development in 2005, 2010 and again in 2015, reflecting its commitment to conservation management through Countryside Stewardship Schemes and privately funded Estate led environmental initiatives.

The East Devon Pebblebed Heaths are managed by the Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust, a charity set up by Clinton Devon Estates to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Pebblebed Heaths and the Otter Estuary for the benefit of future generations.

The East Devon Pebblebed Heaths are located in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and have both UK and European designations, including a Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

For more information, please visit [www.clintondevon.com](http://www.clintondevon.com)