

Rachel Woollett completed a 70 mile sponsored ride in aid of the Cancer Society on the eve of her 70th Birthday .



Pictured are **Trudi Colton** , **Frances Geoghan** (mounted) **Susan Minnion**, **Rachel Woollett** and her son **Douglas Woollett**.

Rachel started off at eight o'clock in the morning of Sunday the 10th May 2010 and after eight sections of varying length finished in the main street in Ballinasloe after six pm. She was accompanied all the way by her son Douglas riding a bicycle. A team of helpers including Susan Minnion, Frances Geoghan, Trudi and Ian Colton manoeuvred people and horses to the pre-arranged meeting places at the end of each stage. The day stayed fine and with a gentle breeze made it comfortable to horses and humans. The 70 miles covered a large area of South Roscommon's lesser-known roads. The effective marking of maps provided by Rachel were much used in navigating between stages. Rachel rode six different horses during the day including her driving cob Gloria with whom she previously competed in the British National Carriage Driving Championships.

Riders from far and wide joined Rachel for one or two stages. Shirley North riding an eye-catching chestnut will be known to many driving and hunting people. Frances Geoghan brought two beautifully turned-out horses kindly lent by Pat and Karen Garrett. Both horses proved their fitness as well as looks by doing more than one stage with a rest in between. In order to complete this feat Rachel needed to keep up a strong pace and some of the less fit horses and riders found it tough just to stay in touch for even one stage.

Some very generous sponsorship was received but for those who have not done so this uniquely brave feat of endurance is deserving of your support and you can contribute directly to Rachel or through the web site at www.mycharity.ie/event/70mileride This was a very demanding challenge requiring a considerable level of personal fitness to make it through all 70 miles, so it's just as well she did it before turning seventy!