

Help for women with ICP liver condition

A NAPHILL husband and wife cycled 40 miles to raise money for a little-known liver pregnancy condition, which can lead to still birth.

Victoria Geenes and her husband Andy Houldsworth cycled from Richmond to Windsor with five other people for ICP Support.

Intrahepatic cholestasis of pregnancy (ICP) is the most common liver condition of pregnancy and affects around 5,000 women per year in the UK.

The main presenting symptom is an 'itch' for the woman, which sounds mild but it can be so debilitating that the woman scratches herself until she bleeds. It is connected with an increased risk of spontaneous premature birth, fetal distress and stillbirth.

Victoria, 31, is a trustee for the charity. She said: "For the women we help, we can help provide information. They can then take it back to their doctors.

"It is empowering women to challenge their doctors,

which I think is very difficult for them to do.

"Pregnancy is a particularly vulnerable time, especially when they are told they have got this.

"The worst possible outcome associated with this is still birth."

Victoria has three boys under five but hasn't personally suffered the condition in any of her pregnancies, but her involvement in the charity is very unique as she is a doctor who has an interest in ICP research.

She completed her PhD under the supervision of Professor Williamson at Imperial College London, and continues to work with the group.

The cycle ride raised more than £3,000. The charity's chairman, Jenny Chambers, took part and it was the first time she had been on a bike for 30 years.

CHARITY: ICP Support chairman Jenny Chambers and her husband Ian Kingston



Go to www.icpsupport.org for more details