



MILLY STRIDE 2016

NEW FOREST
COMMONING
CHAMPION
BADGE



I am in Reception class. I go to school every day, sometimes we walk and sometimes we go in the car. On the way to school we sometimes see deer and ponies. My mum is a teacher and my dad works in the Forest. I have a twin brother.

In springtime I like to ride my pony after school and go out to look for the ponies which might be having foals. Grandad has a brand, RJ, which helps me to spot his ponies. My brand is LO, it is also my mum's brand. I can't go riding on Tuesdays because I have swimming. Sometimes I help dad to chain harrow and roll the fields ready for haymaking but it is a bit boring.

In the summer we love to walk and ride our bikes in the Forest, sometimes we see adders near our house and last year we had a grass snake in the garden. My brother likes to go in the tractor with daddy, to cut, rake and bale the hay and silage. I prefer to ride my pony, sometimes I go to shows and win rosettes.. I also love to ride out and see the orchids on the lawns and gladioli growing in the bracken.

Last week we saw the silver studded blue butterflies in the heather and bog myrtle. In the summer we don't have a fire, the solar panels heat the hot water. We walk out to check our cows on the Forest. This year we found a cow with a cut on her leg so we used the horsebox to collect her and the vet came to give her some medicine. Grandad's pig had 11 piglets this summer

In autumn we go to the drifts at the weekends. Dad rides his horse with the other commoners and they catch the ponies. We wait with mummy and holler very loudly when the ponies come towards us. When I am 10, I can ride on the drift and in the races too. I like to help dad get the cows back from the forest so they don't eat the acorns. Our pigs go out in the Forest in the autumn to eat the acorns but some cows and ponies still die.

In winter we help feed the cows in the barn. They eat the hay and silage which we made in the summer. I like to use my cow stick to drive the cows up the track to the forest. Dad calls it 'God's Barn'. The cows like to sleep in the heather but on rainy nights they stand under the holly trees. Our track is very muddy and we wear wellies and waterproofs all the time! We help to get the wood in every evening for the woodburner, the fire keeps us warm and makes the water hot for our bath. I love the Forest even when it is wet and cold.

