

# A life in common

#CommoningVoices

#RealNewForest

#KeepCommonersCommoning

#Icare2



# Childhood



‘Commoning is one big family-falling out making up and working together.’



‘There’s always someone who takes you under their wing - no-one starts alone’



‘There’s a real difference between commoners in the north and commoners in the south.’



- north v south tug of war
- ‘Last year the rope broke at full stretch! Mike was devastated- it had lasted 40 years.’

# Commoners and their animals



# Pony of a lifetime



# bloodlines

- Illustrated pony pedigrees
- Commoning family trees
- ‘We kept a Commoning notebook and recorded which mares had foals and where they ran. It was important then.’
- ‘Richard kept a book – when passports came in we stopped. Haunt – Mare.’
- ‘We still keep a book in the car’.

# Pride

- Forest Fed Cup
- Breed Show Champion
- Point to Point cups
- Prefixes



# Beaulieu Road Sales



# Commoners' pride in animals



‘Moving cattle brings the worst out in a family. No-one can ever agree on a plan.’



# Commoners and the Forest





# Map- illustrated or interactive

- “**Ironshill** is my favourite part: it’s where I come from and where I know.”
- **New Park** – the New forest show was a family tradition. The cars were parked at the ringside – it was a showcase in the 1950s and 1960s. Looking for ponies in **Frame** – I can’t have been 10 – I went one way and Dad went the other. I got home in the dark – on my own! I was scared!
- **Beaulieu Road** “You don’t go there if you want to make money!”
- “We were about 12 when Richard first took us to Beaulieu Road and told us all about it.”
- “It’s social. It’s a good place to go to learn.”
- “I like **Puckpits** – standing on the hill and looking out over **Mogshade** – especially in the autumn.
- The drive from **Penerley** to **Culverley** – the arch of oaks over the road like a painting.
- The triangle from **Stockley, Hatchet and back to Furzey pound**. That is where our cattle tend to run.
- **Denny Wood** is my favourite place – seeing and hearing the pigs rummaging.
- Watching the rut at **Sloden**.
- **Lovelyhill** and **Yewtree** are our prefixes – it’s our patch. Those woods are really dark – the ponies are really wild.
- One day we walked so far that eventually we got to **Stockley Cottage** – Dad broke in to use the phone because we were too tired to walk home. (He did know the commoners who lived there!)
- The smell of the heather and the bog myrtle. **Hilltop**.
- **Acres Down** – we parked at **Floodgate** and walked through when we first got married and our ponies started to run there.
- There are still areas where I get lost – it’s so vast sometimes you can lose your bearings. When I was young with grandad we got lost up in **Aldridge Hill** – we were looking for ponies – we had all the ropes and it looked really dodgy. We went round in circles and eventually grandad admitted we were lost!
- **Rhinefield** is lovely to drive.
- At **Beaulieu Aerodrome** we stood on the big hump and could see for miles. It was something left over from the war. I like the mound – it’s a great place to stand to see the ponies running. The only place my horse stands still.
- Down the **V-piece** – we had our own drift – sometimes we’d have a good day, sometimes we’d get rowing.
- I like **Gypsy Wood** – we had mini cross country competitions.
- I like **Berry** and **Ridley Wood** – in the beech woods especially when its raining. When the hounds are there you can hear the hounds running. I remember being in **Berry** in our duffle coats. Fred Lockyer was in there with his vest on . . . The trailer was loaded to the gunnels with beech – you thought those days would last forever.
- Down on **Sowley Shore** – the ponies run all the way to the pier at **Lymington**. Its good doing for the ponies. If you went to get them it was good walking. A pony of mine got stuck in the mud. Bryan Ingram and Helen went down in a boat to get her out with a rope. Bryan fell in – they got her out and she lived there for years. They sold a pony to the Isle of Wight and she swam back – she tried a second time . . .
- **East End Pond** – we had bareback races through them in the summer holidays.

# North V South

- “The north is prettier – it’s more scenic, quieter.”
- The south feels like home, but the north is more dramatic.
- Up north . . . across the A31. It’s like a different place. It’s quiet.
- **Ibsley** is the nicest bit of the Forest – it’s quiet, it’s got hills, it’s good for getting a horse fit for the point-to-point. There’s no enclosures, it’s all heather.
- The south is FLAT and WET!
- There are few places in the south where you can be by yourself. I’m always looking for places to ride on my own.

# An intimate relationship with the Forest

- You know all the gateways where you can catch animals.
- The bogs that you can cross in summer and those you can cross in winter.
- You know the streams with hard bottoms . . .
- I like to be in the Forest on my own. I went off in the Forest on my own – that’s when I found the places with peaceful tranquil energy. Rays of sunlight come through the pollarded holly – it’s like a film. I cherished it as a child.
- You don’t feel lonely or scared.
- When I’m abroad I MISS THE FOREST, the Forest is a part of me. Belonging . . .
- What will be there for our grandchildren?
- There isn’t a specific place . . .
- The cartbridge doesn’t exist but people still call it the cartbridge.
- The encounters you have with wildlife are special.
- It’s a place to retreat to and escape to. On a horse on your own you relax and unwind.
- It is ever-changing – no two days are the same. The sunlight, the trees and leaves are different.
- Bog myrtle is really evocative – the colour changes through the year.
- Every place has it’s memory.
- Moving cattle brings the worst out in a family. No-one can ever agree on a plan.
- We have a practice route for the point-to-point. You know its nearly Christmas when we ride that route.
- We stayed with our grandparents. We had no fear . . .