

# ADVANCE INFORMATION MEDIA SHEET

## Have You Seen The New Forest Unicorn?



### Carole Smith



**Title:** Have You Seen The New Forest Unicorn?

**Author:** Carole Smith

**Genres:** Children's Fiction

**Publication date:** 5th July

**Availability:** Paperback

**ISBN:** 9781399956857

**Price:** £9.99 PB | £4.99 EB

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You may be lucky enough to see the Unicorn, it may be hiding behind the Gorse by the Stone Water Trough at Wootton.

Maybe Willow was right... it may go to Setley Pond for a drink!

It could even be visiting the Trolls that live under Wootton Bridge.

Perhaps the Unicorn did visit Hincheslea, and saw the Hot Air Balloon?

And on a walk at Wilverley Plain or Longslade, you may be lucky enough to see the New Forest ponies grazing or playing: Drummer, Merlin, Peewee, Riley, Willow and Juliet.

If you go to the Deer Sanctuary at Bolderwood or to Pipers Wait you may even see The Monarch.

But on a dark clear night if you look up, the Unicorn may appear among the stars in the sky over The New Forest.

**Drummer, Merlin, Peewee, Riley, Juliet and Willow will keep looking, will you join them?**

*The New Forest Ponies all roam free and wild within The New Forest, if you visit, please remember to look and to admire them, but never ever touch or feed them.*



@NewForestTales



Carole Smith was born and raised in London and Hertfordshire. Her parents moved to Milford On Sea when she was 17 and it was there, in 1985, that she met her husband Simon, who is 'Forest born and bred'. As well as falling for an amazing man, Carole also fell in love with The New Forest. Carole and Simon have been married for 36 years and have two grown-up children and two granddaughters. Carole is now retired, having spent her working life in the family business as Financial Director.

As a child, Carole describes herself as "horse mad" and would take every opportunity to pester her parents to take her to the New Forest to see the ponies. Carole has always been a horse rider and as an adult had the joy of owning several horses and feels extremely privileged to have been able to ride every day in the Forest.

While she does not ride anymore Carole still spends a lot of time walking in the Forest where it is her privilege every day to see the ponies, deer, cattle and other animals roaming the Forest through the changing seasons.

Carole's family, especially their granddaughters, are a source of pure joy to them, so during lockdown, like many other families pulled apart, she found it very difficult being isolated from them. Their oldest granddaughter, Chloe, loved standing at the window watching the ponies go by, so with this in mind Carole started to write a story that she could share over FaceTime.

Carole used the quirky characteristic of the ponies and horses she has grown to know and love over decades, and before long she had her six main characters, each with their own personality. And The New Forest Tales were born!

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