

## M49/040 Abbeyspring Amber Light 2002

(Ashfield Jack Frost / Mockbeggar Tea Leaf by Hungerford Jonjo)

## M49/340 Haywards Harebell 2007

(Long Copse Elton / Trenley Tinkerbelle by Buckland Dragonslayer)

***"To see in colour is a delight for the eye but to see in black and white is a delight for the soul."* Andri Caldwell**



This was certainly the case when these two New Forest ponies attended the Fun Days at Ferny Croft Activity Centre to meet around 750 of Hampshire's Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The grey mare is Abbeyspring Amber Light or La La to her friends and the black mare is Haywards Harebell, aka Prinny. These ponies were fantastic ambassadors for the breed allowing the children to smooth and stroke them for 8 sessions over two days.



Whilst I explained that the 'wild' ponies on the Forest should never be touched or fed and that litter should not be dropped and that cars should always be driven slowly through the Forest, these two admirable equines stood quietly enjoying the attention of the children, many of which had never touched an animal before. The children started being very scared and ended up having to be encouraged to leave them as the leaders needed to move to the next session. "Just five more strokes" one young boy said as he reasoned with his leader for extra time.

I am very grateful to the ponies' owners, Mr & Mrs Raymond and Roxie Thomas for the loan of the pair of them to attend this event. It was very interesting to see how the patience and kindness of these two ponies was enjoyed by the children and it was easy to explain about the Commoners' livestock on The Forest with these two 'super stars' as the backdrop.

**Lucie Rowe**