

The things I like - By Mary Wilkinson

I love to go riding and go every second Sunday with my sister Helen to the Caistor Equestrian Centre. My favourite horse is called Magic and I will be riding him when we go to summer camp for three days in August, the picture here on the right is him in the snow. I have ridden lots of the stable's horses. I like riding most of them but some can be a bit bossy and hard to control. The horse's names are Tinkerbelle, Hamish, Chocky, Scout, Conner and Magic. These are the ones that young riders use and its great fun, Helen and I really enjoy it. I would like to work at the stables and when I am nine I will be allowed to help there so I'm going to ask soon.



I like snails as well and have been looking after some in a box we keep in the garden. Helen likes them as well so we both go looking for them. I don't think mum is very keen on them and daddy



absolutely hates them, he would squash them if he were home. But if we collect them and keep them away from our vegetables that we are growing they will not be eating holes in them will they. The ones we have at the moment are called *Cepaea Nemoralis* and have pale yellow shells with a dark stripe running from the front down to the twirly bit in the middle. The shells can also be dark brown or even pink with the stripe on them, it depends on what they eat and where they live. These snails have laid eggs in a plastic tube we left in the box so we are waiting to see if they hatch out.



I would really like a giant snail from Africa but they cost a lot of money and have to be kept in a heated tank. They grow very big so mum and daddy would have to pay for a bigger tank every now and again. Maybe when I'm a lot older I could also have a dog as long as it was not as big as Auntie Maria's dog or as small as cousin Leah's dog. A rabbit would be nice as well, we could grow the food in the garden for that. Helen says plenty for a snail to eat in this one!