

# NEW FOREST

by travel writer  
*Tim Saunders*



*The Premium Lodge at Sandy Balls Holiday Village*

**N**ew Forest artist Claire Wiltsher loves watching how the light dances amongst the forest shadows. She says it becomes a natural cathedral when a backdrop of light comes into play among the trees. We experience this staying in our Premium Lodge at Sandy Balls holiday village.

The first night is always difficult for our two daughters: Harriett (3) and Heidi (1) because they need time to become accustomed to their surroundings. We forget to tire them out sufficiently before bedtime and live to regret it. We must remember to do that in future.

It is so lovely and toasty warm inside the lodge that when we emerge into the chilly cold of the forest it is quite a shock. But very refreshing nevertheless. With a bike and trailer from the cycle centre I take my daughters on an early morning ride around the local area while busy mummy Caroline has chance to relax. An extremely good aid to relaxation is the bathroom

incorporating a shower and a large corner bath with its water jets that provide a good massage. The beds are also extremely comfortable. This certainly gets the heart pumping; I forget how heavy Harriett and Heidi are becoming and so it is impossible for their unfit father to ride up any of the hills in one go. But after numerous stops we make our way round and see the world as it wakes up; ponies in the fields and even some squirrels gathering their nuts. We spy some donkeys outside The Foresters Arms at Frogham.



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*Heidi and Harriett in their trailer*