



WELCOME TO THE FARMLAND MUSEUM AND DENNY ABBEY



Join **Denny**, the Farmland Field Mouse, as he meets some of his friends!

Hi! I'm Denny. I was out and about the other evening in the cottage garden, looking for something to eat as usual, when I met one of my friends. I was rather surprised as it was a bit cold and hedgehogs usually sleep through all the chilly days of winter...



Everyone calls him Prickles. I guess you can see why. Like me he was out looking for food. He doesn't like the very cold weather so he needs to find nice warm places to sleep in the winter. Best of all he likes to burrow under piles of old leaves deep in the hedgerow - safe from anything that might try to eat him! In the winter, it's not so easy for him to find the slugs, worms and fallen fruit that he likes to eat, but he does get hungry after a few weeks, so he comes out to see what he can find.



I saw his tracks in some mud by the hedge and followed them until I met up with him.

He told me that he had seen an old apple still hanging on a branch of an apple tree, but couldn't quite reach it. He really fancied a bit of apple, even if it might be a bit dry and old. I told him to show me the tree so he led me off along the hedgerow to where it was growing.

I managed to scramble up to the apple hanging there, and chew through the stalk until it dropped to the ground. Then I scampered down and joined Prickles in a little feast.



When we had finished the apple, Prickles said he would go to look for a juicy slug in the garden.



Prickles then decided to find a new place to sleep. He had seen Wilf weasel's tracks around his old nest and worried he might be back soon.



So, Prickles decided, it was time to find somewhere new!

Off Prickles went, so I decided to find something else to eat...

I remembered I had seen some catkins hanging on a tree nearby so I decided I would like to try some of those.



But I was still hungry! So, I thought to have a look in Walnut Tree Cottage...

There is a kitchen where I often find something to nibble on. It even has a few comfy places for a nap. It's a pity that the big old fire range isn't lit these days. It would make the place very cosy!

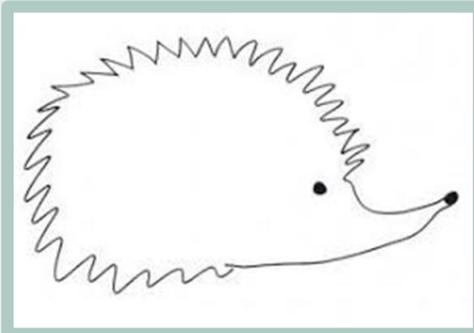
Thank you for reading my story!

I was so happy to see my friend Prickles in the garden. We had so much fun!



Do you like hedgehogs? If you do, you might want to try one of these fun Prickles activities....

To make this Prickles you could use a paper plate folded in half and coloured brown, or cut a circle from brown paper, then fold it in half. Stick the two halves together. With the folded edge on the bottom, add eyes and a nose on one end to make his face!



You can make the prickles out of cut strips of brown or grey paper. Or you could use different colours and make a “rainbow Prickles”! You could also draw round your hand, cut out some paper and use that for their prickles!

I have a puzzle for you! Why don't you give it a go?

When I was in Walnut Tree Cottage, I saw these two strange objects resting on top of the range where there would have been a fire.

Do you know what they are and why they would be on the hot range?



Find the answer on the next page!

Puzzle Answer...

The two objects are FLAT IRONS. They were used for ironing clothes before there was electricity. They had to be heated on the top of the stove or close to an open fire. You had two so that as you used one the other was stayed hot - then you could swap them over.

CAN YOU SEE HEDGEHOGS IN YOUR GARDEN?

Do you know if you have hedgehogs in your garden?

Hedgehogs are nocturnal and they hibernate over winter so we don't always know they are there. We start to see them more again during March.



Encourage one to stop off in your garden by leaving out dishes of clean water and some cat or dog food for them to eat (not bread and milk because that can make them ill).

You could build a “hog house” for them to live and perhaps to hibernate in next winter. If you have any old logs make a pile of them in a quiet corner of the garden. Heap them up so that there is a hollow space for the hedgehog to get into. Add some dried leaves on the floor if you can to keep them cosy!

Log piles are really great because as well as giving shelter, they also provide food as they attract bugs and insects.

Keep an eye out for more from Denny Mouse
and his friends at the museum!

See you soon!

