

## AKELD COTTAGE

**10 July – 24 July**

We were happy with this peaceful house. It is well equipped and has enough rooms to separate. The nights are really quiet just the right rooms for a holiday. Unfortunately we had very changeful weather during this time.

Nevertheless we did many trips around in Northumberland and Scotland, Bamburgh, Seahouses, Amble with a boat trip, Jedburgh and Hadrian's Wall as examples. Everywhere we met friendly people to have a chat with and they gave us a few useful tips. To save money for parking uses the public streets. The tickets for Alnwick Castle and Garden are two day valid. Franzisca did several rides at Kimmerston. Riding is outdoors so please take that into consideration.

We came from Switzerland to experience this calm, green and changeful landscape. We also saw many animals when we drove through the single roads. Very funny.

**24<sup>th</sup> July – 31<sup>st</sup> July**

6 of us from one family spent a really happy week in this very comfortable cottage. The setting is tranquil and there is much to explore in the valley.

We have been fortunate with the weather which has been terrible further south. We have only had a few very intense showers; otherwise we have enjoyed sunshine and interesting clouds!

We were impressed by how well equipped the cottage is and touched by the lovely 'welcome pack'

We are all sorry to be leaving and will have happy memories of the area and the friendly people.

**31<sup>st</sup> July – 7<sup>th</sup> August**

I booked this cottage after spending the weekend riding at Kimmerston Riding Centre in April 2009. I loved the place so much I wanted to come back and share it with others. 6 of us arrived on Friday from Huddersfield. I was worried the cottage would be overcrowded but it was more than big enough for us all. The cottage is huge, beautiful and the kitchen more than fully equipped. The garden is lovely and huge and 2 views are amazing. The surroundings are so peaceful.

There is so much to do in Northumberland that even a week is not long enough. I rode nearly every day. The horses are amazing, so beautiful and well looked after. We ate in most nights as our days out wore us out. The first night we ate at Harvey's round the corner, we thought it would be lovely to pop in as it was close by. 6 of us ate. The food good but the service and friendliness of the staff were appalling. We ate at the red Lion another night and the food was amazing. Tonight we are eating at the Black Bull in Etal which is also lovely. (We had lunch yesterday) We have been so lucky with the weather as each day has been nice. In particular yesterday and today. We are so sad to be leaving this lovely cottage and county tomorrow but I have no doubt we will be back, if not just for the riding at Kimmerston.

**7<sup>th</sup> August – 14<sup>th</sup> August**

**We have had a very enjoyable week**

**The cottage was very well appointed and comfortable, with lovely fresh décor and linen. The welcome pack was a lovely touch.**

**We have been very lucky with the weather, only ½ day of rain, really sunny intervals and fairly warm. There is so much to see and so is this area, there is so much to see and not enough time to do it justice. We will definitely be back. Would recommend the Red Lion for a lovely meal- great food and pleasant service.**

**Many thanks to Dickie and Jane, for their attentiveness.**

**14<sup>th</sup> August- 21<sup>st</sup> August**

**A most enjoyable stay in beautiful surroundings.**

**A very well appointed cottage which is short of nothing but servants.**

**Thanks to Dickie for sorting out TV aerials and also to Lorna and Paul who came to do the technical bits!**

**We would love to have stayed for another week as there are so many things to do and places to see – including over the border. Excellent Location.**

**21<sup>st</sup> August – 28<sup>th</sup> August**

**We have had a lovely week here in this beautiful part of the country, our first holiday in Northumberland, definite not the last.**

**We have had an action packed week and the cottage surpassed our expectations. Who would have thought such a spacious property would lie behind the little blue door? Ideally placed we have enjoyed the local countryside and the lovely beach at Bamburgh, a sea trip to the Farne Islands, with sightings of many seals and a tour round her majesty's yacht at Edinburgh – the highlight of the holiday – highly recommended!**

**We have been very lucky with the weather and the locals have been very friendly and helpful.**

**We ate last night at The Red Lion and again highly recommended!**

**We would have found some local information helpful when we first arrived e.g. The location of the nearest shops, garage, local eateries etc and also the nearest Doctor, Dentist etc as the youngest member of our three generational party was unwell in the night (as is always the case) and if a Doctor had been needed we would have been clueless.**

**The welcome pack was a very nice touch and the food produce delicious. We also went riding at Kimmerston and had a great experience. A very good time had by all.**

**28<sup>th</sup> August – 4<sup>th</sup> September**

**We have been very lucky with the weather so have enjoyed our week in this stunning part of the world and have been very comfortable in the cottage. It is well equipped and we were very touched by the goodies in the welcome pack.**

For convenience we ate at Harvey's on our first evening – very disappointing. We much prefer the Red Lion at Milfield (3 miles towards Coldstream) Where Iain and his team were really welcoming and the food is excellent. If you have young children and need to eat earlier than us we suggest you book. We also enjoyed a meal at Milan's in Wooler (mainly Italian dishes but lots of other things to offer) and again booking might be advisable.

Our daughter went riding at Kimmerston, we have seen castles and beaches but the best day was on Hadrian's Wall – fabulous! Lots to see and do and a week isn't long enough!

11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> September

Back in Wooler after a two year holiday the western highlands fabulous day on Saturday- Holy Island –on Sunday and we lazed away the day in this very comfortable college.

We'll be back for the weekend prior to moving into our own cottage – glad to be home again.

Only worry – the cooker socket is not secure and temperamental – we found the cooker only came on if the socket was on too!! Needs attention.

Lovely cosy quiet cottage very relaxing enjoyed the welcome pack a very nice touch. Lovely walks in hills and forest. Particularly enjoyed Cragside and Alnwick Gardens. Stayed in most nights but had a delicious meal at Milan restaurant in Wooler.

2<sup>nd</sup> October – 16<sup>th</sup> October

This is certainly has been quite a different experience! Lots of laughs along the way due to differences in culture and even language. All enjoyable, however and a great learning experience for us all! We found both Red Lion in Milfield and Wooler wonderful! The food was great, plus very friendly and personable service! We went to Edinburgh twice by taking the train from Berwick upon Tweed. Loved all of the castles we can't decide which one is our favourite as there is definite a different feel to each one of them! Definitely take a walk on the Bamburgh Beach; we got a chance to wade in the North Sea! BRR met a lot of nice people who are absolutely crazy about their dogs which we can truly appreciate being involved in the veterinary field.

Definitely get to Edinburgh – the castle and Holyrood are wonderful and the food and shops on the royal mile are great!

We also loved the fishing boats of Seahouses and the drive along the coast. We did 2 walks one on Yeavinger Bell to see an Iron fort and the other from Wooler up Humbleton to see another Iron fort. Both are spectacular with the Humbleton walk being the easier one. My husband enjoyed a glider ride and he flies back home and we found all of the people there just fabulous! We had a chance to see quite a bit of the surrounding stone fortes and stone carvings in the area, plus Flodden Field and Hadrian's Wall. We found that the terrain by the wall most different than here- a lot less beautiful!! I love the Cheviot Hills and all of the breathtaking fields here, lovely anyway

Thank you so much to Dickie and Jane, it was lovely meeting Jane. Thank you for letting us call your cottage home for 2 weeks!!

**24th October – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009**

**We have spent a very relaxing week in this lovely cottage in a very idyllic part of Northumberland. We have experienced such mild weather we have been out without coast ( this time last year we had snow) our favourite day out has been to Alnwick castle- extra special events for Halloween added to the attraction.**

**A visit to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne is fantastic if you want to enjoy fantastic views and peace and quiet.**

**13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010**

**Fantastic week here at Akeld extremely beautiful relaxing surroundings. The riders had a superb couple of days riding. The girls really enjoyed the beach ride. However Jane almost fell off!**

**Food was good, Roast Beef and Yorkshire being the best. But belly buster brekkies ran at a close second.**

**Jason, Rachel and Gail went home a day early and missed the deer on Akeld Hill.**

**It seems the snow is claiming in around us so we making a dash for home. We have had a great week and are very very relaxed.**