

## AKELD COTTAGE

2010

### 10 July – 24 July

#### **OUR VERY FIRST VISITORS**

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.

### 24th July – 31st 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.

### 31st July – 7th 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.

### 7th August – 14th 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.

#### 14th August- 21st 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.

#### 21st August – 28th 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.

#### 28th August – 4th 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!

#### 11th – 14th 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.

Well 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.

### 2nd October – 16th 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 buy 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 – 31st 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.

### 13th 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.

**I t 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.**

**2nd April 2010**

**The highlights of our lovely week: We walked over the top of Wooler, Wooler common, Climbing hills from the cottage, Eating hot smoked salmon and Doddington cheeses, Riding at kimmerston, Pub lunch at Rothbury, views of the snow on top of cheviot. Everything here was great apart from when our 7 year old son broke his thumb while playing in the garden he dropped a rock on it. So we had a unexpected trip to Wooler surgery, then to Alnwick minor injuries dept. He is now all bandaged up and happy to show his friends back in Manchester!**

**28th may 2010**

The cottage itself is wonderful and comfortable with all the facilities you would ever need, Jane the owner even supplied some basic supplies we needed. Our butler Alex found the kitchen equipment easy to use and we enjoyed his delicious cooking with the meat from a local butcher. Use butchers not Morrison or co-op!!

Our maid, Nadia found all the cleaning and washing up equipment so she was able to keep the cottage as clean and tidy as we found it.

Walks we did the foray into Scotland walk which was 12miles and well worth it!! We also went to Kielder Forest which we found disappointing as the lake was not up to much and it didn't have a natural feel about it.

Don't bother with Holy Island, we got through some costal tours on a day drive but once again not very impressed with the sea side villager.

Lack of decent pubs. Don't bother with red lion Midfield or black bull Etal. Wooler didn't look promising either.

However we loved the cottage though, we could not ask for more, lots of space, cosy and even sleeping quarters for our butler and maid.

### June 23rd 2010

As I write this I am sat in the Cottage garden 10:30pm at night the weather has been amazing as it is a midsummer night.

We had a very entertaining day at barn at Beal with the birds of prey. We fell in love with Toby the owl. The staff are so friendly here and very good with the birds.

The cottage has been a great place for us and we think it should be promoted strongly for its walking possibilities as I finally got my girls up some hills and it couldn't have been better. Also the DVDs' and books were a bonus for us.

We rode at kimmerston and as we are already riders we found the horses and ride came up to our expectations. We think it is the singular best way to see the world – from horse back- the girls found their confidence and won their spurs. Thank you. (Dickies photography skills were to be admired!)

Wooler was very handy for essentials however we loved the coast and it took no time at all to go from Wooler onto the A1 and to the coast. We walked to Dunstanburgh castle from Craster. Find a footpath onto buddle bay. Alnwick castle and gardens are a must. Underneath the waffle Chillingham castle feels ancient and foreboding. We will be back!!

### June 23rd 2010

WOW! What a site it is brilliant. I'm writing this to tell you how much we all enjoyed our stay here and how beautiful it is with all the nature ride outside your door. I really enjoyed going to kimmerston riding centre and all the horses we BEAUTIFUL! I rode Muffin and my mum rode Sammy and my sister rode Pebbles. Muffin was a lovely pony and a delight to ride. I'm sure alot of other people with have to chance to come and stay in this FAB cottage.

Hi I loved the cottage it was in the perfect spot. There was perfect views all around. The riding was great and I enjoyed the horses very much. We loved it here so we will definitely be back.

### 25th June

We came to Akeld for myself to do a beach ride and I definatley wasn't disappointed. I found the whole experience amazing. There was a lovely memory made this day.

**The cottage is wonderful. A big thank you to Lorna and the caretaker for my birthday card and choccies a lovely touch.**

21/7/2010

Thank you for a restful tasteful cottage 29 July 2011

Enjoyed our week here – weather pretty good. Loved the views from the cottage. Recommend the beaches at Bamburgh and Alnmouth. We've climbed hills locally. My husband was very impressed with Yeavinger Bell but it was too steep for me. We ate out at Milans – food was good and staff were friendly. Appreciated the food provided on our arrival. I come up to Northumberland to see my sister and family who live locally and would be happy to stay here again.

5 August 2011

Lovely cottage in fabulous location! We had fantastic walks locally and recommend Bamburgh and Ross Sands Beaches (the latter is empty and fab, with views of Lindisfarne in one direction and Bamburgh in the other) Had a wonderful time hanging out with lovely neighbours on both sides.

Totally agree with a previous guest who bought netting to secure the fence: keeping our collies away from the sheep on the other side was a full time job!! A properly fenced garden would make this cottage perfect!!

5-12 August 2011

Jack , Suzanne, Toby and Matilda Marritt (London) Fantastic riding every day together at Kimmerston despite the rain (also every day!). See you again next year!

12-19 August 2011

OK – so the cottage is a real tardis – when you first arrive it is hard to believe that a three bedroom cottage is behind the blue door.

If you want peace, quiet and tranquility, this is a wonderful place. If you want internet access, mobile phone access, high street shops you will struggle.

The horse riding is really good, although the flies leave a lot to be desired.

The touristy places, of which there are plenty in the area, you need to discover for yourself.

All things considered, we have had a really nice week and have not been disappointed.

08.26.2011

French Family of 5. Very nice beautiful scenery only 'be-moll' in bathroom. We were very happy aniview. Every necessary in the kitchen – bravo!

Thank you very very much – Bernadette – my birthday of 70 was here.

2.9.11

Lovely spacious house in great location. We very much appreciated the welcome package of food and milk – a great start. Had not realized how much there was to do in Northumberland, so ran out of time to see and do everything. Had meals at Black Bull, Etal and Milans, Wooler – both good.

#### 8.9.11

A most comfortable house with lovely views, I will remember. First visit to this area – haven't covered half of what we meant to do.

Appreciated supplies on arrival – most welcome after long journey. The room in garden centre at Wooler served homemade tasty food which we very much enjoyed.

#### 08.09.11

This cottage is more like a home than a holiday let which is very cosy and welcoming. It was so nice to bring my dog who was fascinated by the sheep being more used to seeing seals on the beach. I have really enjoyed my holiday here and have found everyone very friendly. Loved walking up the bridge bath and seeing the magnificent views. Thank you.

#### 9016 September 2011

A very comfortable and well equipped cottage with beautiful views. Our first visit to Northumberland – so much to see and do. Enjoyed several walks – Hill/Coast wonderful scenery! Will look forward to returning.

#### 16-23 September 2011

Our third holiday in Northumberland but our first at Akeld Cottage. Small on the outside, big in the inside and very well equipped! We've had a very good week, with weather much better than anticipated and have filled in a few more 'gaps' both walking and site seeing.

The cottage is warm and comfortable and perfect for a week's holiday. A couple of minor suggestions

- 1) Some info on the history of the cottage buildings would have been good to explain the unusual courtyard layout
- 2) A light over the outside of the patio doors would be useful.

Many thanks for an excellent holiday. Long drive back to Hampshire now.

#### 14 – 16 Sept 2011

Thoroughly enjoyed our stay in this beautiful part of the country, the cottage is a pleasure to stay in and gives a true feel of rural Northumberland. I recommend a trip to Kelso especially if you have any interest in fly fishing as the Orvis shop is in the Square and the Tweed runs through the town. All the surrounding villages are lovely and the people we met welcoming and friendly.

#### 24 October 2011

A most enjoyable weekend. The cottage is so like a 'tardis' lots of space in what appears from the outside as a small abode!

**Warm, spacious rooms homely and comfy. We would recommend the Chinese Takeaway from Wooler.**

**Beautiful countryside to spend a weekend of leisure away from the hustle of everyday life!**

**The Halloween Train around the villages and in the Black Bull at Etal really good and food and company of the locals great.**

**24-28 October 2011**

**Thank you for letting us stay in your lovely cottage.**

**Very comfortable cottage, spacious yet cosy. Nice peaceful location. Enjoyable few days. Welcome groceries much appreciated too!=====**