

# Guest Comments 2006



**Silver Winner Self Catering Holiday of the Year**  
National Enjoy England Awards for Excellence 2006  
**Winner of Self Catering Holiday of the Year**  
North East England Tourism Awards 2005

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*These comments have all been made by paying guests  
and we hadn't met any of them before they made their booking.*

## **28<sup>th</sup> December 2006 – New Year**

*Twelve friends from Pontefract, Sutton Coldfield & Ireland went to the Tree House for New Year's Eve and had the most magical evening. Local taxi were on time, both ends of the evening, and would you believe only charged £40 (Ring Bill Barron if you need a cab. Had a lunch in the Fishing Boat Inn (very clean and well kept beer) landlord might benefit from a personality transplant, but they managed to cater for us in the evening having been made to place our orders at 12:00!! Bamburgh Castle and beach well worth a visit. We tried with Mr Billy Shiells to arrange a boat trip, but sadly the weather was against us all holiday, but Billy rang every day to let us know if it was on or off. We loved the house and found the equipment provided a true home from home. We would happily recommend the house to all our friends and family. We have been well catered for in every way. A "find" was the Tower Bistro in Alnwick – the food is great and the place is very clean and welcoming. The Spar/Naafi shop is nearby, open long hours and great for essentials. We all had a really, great time.*

Andy & Ali, Sam & Alex, Gill & Geoff, Magdalene & Peter, Sue & Chris, Sue & Gill

## **30<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

*Weekend reunion with university friends from around the country.  
For many, this was their first taste of Northumberland.  
The weather was great, the coast stunning and the accommodation fabulous. Will recommend this to all our friends.*

Jim, Ann & friends

**27<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

*We came and when we arrived, we were stunned by its beauty and magnificence. It more than stood up to its publicity – the reality was better than we could ever imagined. The bathrooms were glorious, the décor fantastic and the beds divine – I have fallen in love with the water bed and will be very disappointed to get back to my own bed. The hamper blew us away and we were soon tucking into fresh bread, gorgeous cheeses and lovely chutney.*

*Tuesday – and 13 went to Alnwick Gardens where there were many oohs & aahs as we marvelled at the grand waterfall and water features. Jake (21 months) and Amelia (17 months) did their very best to get as wet as they could, but were thwarted by their mummies and daddies. 13 were lost in the bamboo maze – we entered without trouble, but got lost on the way out. We walked to the castle, just to have a look at where “Harry Potter” learnt to fly his broomstick. We returned to “The House” ready for a cup of tea and a slice of delicious date & walnut cake from the hamper.*

*Wednesday – saw the intrepid explorers visit Holy Island. We enjoyed the drive to the island across the causeway, but were not too impressed by the actual island. However, the history of St Cuthbert was outstanding. We were glad we went. The night on the other hand was fantastic – we sent all the men down to the FBI and the ladies had an evening of pampering. Andrea Forster came to ‘The House’ and gave us all beautiful facials and back massages – Divine!*

*Thursday – and we took the kite to Sugar Sands and nearly ended up sand surfing it was so windy! We then went to Craster in order to walk to Dunstanburgh Castle. To say exhilarating does not do it justice. It was made worse, pushing two prams over water-logged terrain and boulders (it had rained hard all night!). We finished the walk with very bedraggled hair and tingling faces, but with great memories of the panoramic view of the sea, castle and moorland.*

*Friday – sees us all very sorry to be leaving this gorgeous house – hopefully we will return. Thank you so much. Ann, Geoffrey & Elizabeth, Rebecca, rob & Amelia, Tim, Lisa & Jake plus Jill, Albert & Simon visiting*

**13<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

*We had a superb time and the weather was reasonably kind to us. We really appreciated all the little extra touches. Thank you both very much indeed – it was every bit as good as last year.*

Jacky & Peter & 10 different friends

**6<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

*We are a group of 10 friends who have been friends for 50 years – since school days. We have had many holidays together over the years and this is by far the best house we have ever stayed in. Beautifully thought out, everything has been perfect and for our comfort. Thank you so much.*

*We had a great day visiting the Farne Islands – well worth a visit & Holy Island. We went with Billy Shiels Boats. Good walks in the ‘short walks around Alnwick’ book you supplied. We loved Rothbury – bought a great value original painting in the art gallery. Don’t miss Barters Book Shop. Had great carrot & banana cake at Rock Midsteads farm (on one of the short walks). Fab weather. Fisherman’s Inn at Boulmer – good pub, fab sea view, food average for evening meal, but our lunch of crab baguettes was fantastic.*

Christine & Eugene, Pauline & Joe, John & Marian, Terry & Pam, Hilary & Wally

**18<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

*As a group of friends (11 in all), away for a relaxing weekend in lovely accommodation, this fitted the bill exactly. We were made very welcome and had a great 4 days. The Fishing Boat Inn at Boulmer is highly recommended particularly the lobster! Lovely walks on the beach at Boulmer going north and south. All in all a great weekend and “The Northumberland House” is a place we will definitely recommend to others.*

Martin & Helen, Anne & Peter, Dianne & John, Carole & Tony, Andrew, Jenny & Sue

**4<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

*We have had a wonderful weekend celebrating our Golden Wedding with all our family. The house was a great success. One granddaughter (aged 4) thought we had moved here and was very disappointed to find this wasn't the case, others asked when the next celebration would be taking place – it couldn't come too soon for a return visit to enjoy everything all over again. We enjoyed the welcome basket and the delicious chocolate confection and the children loved exploring all the treasures in the drawers.*

*There were so many things to delight adult eyes – favourites were the lamps and the water feature. Thank you for the trouble you have taken to make 'The Northumberland House' a memorable experience.*

Ron & Thelma, Cathy, Neil, Matthew & Hannah, Jon, Sally, Emily & Georgia,  
Chris, Rachel, Naomi, Alex & Sam, Lisa & Andy

**1<sup>st</sup> September 2006**

*This has been a very special week.*

*We have enjoyed every moment in this beautiful house and our holiday in this glorious corner of England.*

Norah

*This house was more than we hoped for and has made a special treat even more special, thank you so much.*

Mark, Amanda, Daisy, Molly & Phoebe

*A great house in a wonderful location.*

*Our holiday to celebrate mum & dad's golden wedding has been a success! Thanks for everything.*

Alison, Jeff & Harriet

**25<sup>th</sup> August 2006**

*Thank you for such a lovely house. We really enjoyed all the 'extras' – the books, videos, DVDs, etc. the welcome hamper(s!), the dressing gowns and the bath stuff (to name a few). Our two weeks here have been very enjoyable. Some of our favourite places to go out & things to do were...*

*The Fishing Boat Inn – brilliant Sunday lunches but also excellent in the week. Alnwick Castle & grounds – lots to do here as well, the best day to go is a Wednesday as you can see the birds of prey, sword fights & Harry Potter tours as well as the magician (for under 10s) – the Dragon Quest is good fun, but smaller children may get scared. Barter Books – it is easy to spend hours here without realising. Sugar Sands Beach – great for sandcastles, rock pools and walks, but remember 50p for parking and access. Bamburgh Castle & beach – a lovely holiday. Thank you again.*

Louisa, aged 13

*Warkworth Castle – interesting and sword fighting. Alnwick Castle – interesting, fencing display and birds of prey.*

*Bamburgh Castle – interesting history and nice rooms, especially the armoury with lots of items of interest.*

*Dunstanburgh Castle – fun to climb and play in.*

*Lovely house with lots of big rooms & I liked the Lego.*

Alex, aged 11 – castle enthusiast

*Thank you for a lovely holiday in your beautiful house. Despite some very wet & cloudy weather, we had a lovely relaxing time and an excuse to stay in and enjoy the house. Places we visited and enjoyed (we did have some good sunny weather as well) were... Alnwick Garden, Castles at Alnwick, Bamburgh, Warkworth, Dunstanburgh & walk, Barter Books to name a few. Restaurants we liked were... The Treehouse – excellent in the evening, The Sanctuary – good food, but service not brilliant, Piccolinos in Alnwick, The Fishing Boat Inn – worth booking a table by the window. All told we have all had a lovely, relaxing holiday and enjoyed staying in this luxurious house with all your attention to detail. Thank you for your friendly hospitality and for all your recommendations – we have had a brilliant time.*

Mary, Claudio, Louisa, Oliver, Alex, Michael & Bernadette

**11<sup>th</sup> August 2006**

*The house was wonderful and all the extras you provided were very welcome.*

*Our conversations now mostly include "heated flooring, induction hobs, water pressure, shower heads, wall hung loos, sash windows, sticky toffee pudding, cherry cake" and much more associated with the house and holiday.*

Janet, Claire & friends

**4<sup>th</sup> August 2006**

*We thoroughly enjoyed our stay at the Northumberland House, which we found very comfortable and well equipped. Longboughton was an excellent base from which to explore the area and we managed to visit all the places on our list.*  
Beverley, Janet, Deb, Graham & friends

**28<sup>th</sup> July 2006**

*We have spent a lovely week at the Northumberland House. Thank you.*  
Mark & friends

**14<sup>th</sup> July 2006**

*We have had a simply marvellous time – grandparents, children & grandchildren all. The children say they have most enjoyed the beach – but also all the toys and running around with their cousins. We have also been on a sea trip around the Farne Islands, enjoyed Alnwick Gardens - some of us have been walking on the Cheviot and some to Cragside. Above all with 4 very young children and one long term ill, we have enjoyed the house and the comfort here – and all the little details from lovely bath goodies to the hamper and the special chocolates to celebrate the new baby. This is our 5<sup>th</sup> year of 'big' family holidays since the first grandchild arrived and by far the best house we have rented.*  
*Thank you so much.*

Audrey & Philip, David & Tray,  
Katherine, Hugo, Megan & Eleanor,  
Becky, Caspar, Susanna & Madeleine

**7<sup>th</sup> July 2006**

*Delightful house in lovely setting with many thoughtful touches.*  
*A fantastic garden made all the better by glorious weather (sun loungers would have been much appreciated!).*  
*Beds extremely comfy and cotton bedding superb!*  
*We made good use of the well-equipped kitchen too.*  
*With thanks for your hard work and lovely welcome.*  
Alan & friends

**30<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

*We have thoroughly enjoyed sampling the delights of Northumberland – splendid scenery, castles & kippers. Holy Island, Bamburgh, The Farne Islands trip, Alnwick Castle & Gardens, The National Park, Craster, the secret beach – we loved them all. Berwick was redeemed by the circular walk on the walls. Good meals out at Warkworth (the Hermitage – but noisy karaoke night); The Fishing Boat Inn (good fish, but deserts disappointing) and the Horseshoes at Rennington (recommended). A shame the house at Cragside is closed all this year, but the grounds are well worth a visit. We were so lucky to have dry weather practically all week and wonderful blue skies and sunshine for the last three days.*  
*Many thanks for the welcome hamper – sticky toffee pudding a great bit.*

*The house is beautifully furnished and extremely well equipped, which made our stay very comfortable indeed.*  
*We have had a wonderful week. Many thanks.*  
Derek & friends

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

*We have all had a lovely holiday. Fabulous house – everything we needed. Lovely extras and lovely bath robes.*  
*The cleanest holiday home we have had in many years. Enjoyed meeting you both.*  
Robert, Sue & friends

**9<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

*Your 'lair with flair' has been a huge success.*  
*Everyone greatly impressed. A bit 'manic' at times as this is the first time we have shared a kitchen.*  
*Fiona Burn was delightful and the meal was first class!*  
*Many thanks for an enjoyable & memorable holiday.*  
Jean & friends

**2<sup>nd</sup> June 2006**

*We have had a super holiday and have especially enjoyed this "high tech" house. A joy to wake up to warm floors & constant hot water. The showers are brilliant! The kitchen a voyage of discovery! We have enjoyed the coast, the scenery & the castles – especially Alnwick. The walking is good & we would have done more if we had had the time.*

*We sincerely hope your venture & investment in the house is a success – very thoughtfully done!*

Graham & friends

**15<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

*Enjoyed a very relaxing weekend in unexpected (and not forecast) good weather.*

*We have all done our own thing, Alnwick, Alnmouth, Coast Route & Seabouses – just pottering.*

*A welcome relief from our usually busy work driven lives. Enjoyed the house too!*

Vicky, Michael, Susan, Trevor, Linda, John, Leslie, Nobby, Carol, Martin & Neil

**1<sup>st</sup> May 2006**

*We have been renting properties for about 15 years and this is by far the best we have stayed in. It is first class in every way. The surrounding area is beautiful and although we live relatively close, we never tire of this coastline and always discover something new (the secret beach). The weather stayed fine for our barbeque and Fresh Element provided an excellent meal. We really felt pampered in this property as you have catered for our every need.*

*We will definitely be back. p.s. the sticky toffee pudding was to die for!*

Rose, etc.

**24<sup>th</sup> April 2006**

*Wow - what a fantastically full reply! Thank you so much for your attention to detail.*

*Just waiting for final confirmation from our sister in law, then will be sending cheque to you. Thanks again.*

Gill

**21<sup>st</sup> April 2006**

*A great "week" for mum's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.*

*Lovely to get us all together under one roof and in such a fabulous house!*

*Love the large showers and sea views. Thank you.*

John & Jo

*Brilliant house and surroundings – a very enjoyable stay.*

Jill

*Had a lovely week – thank you. Inside the house was a real treat. Away from the house we most enjoyed – horse riding at Shipley Lane Stables (excellent instruction), sand dunes at Embleton & Beadnell enjoyed by the boys.*

*The coastal path from Alnmouth to Dunstanburgh – excellent,*

*Dunstanburgh Castle on a blowy day and Barter Books at Alnwick is a must.*

Sally, Alasdair, Colvin, Stuart & Harvey

*The Northumberland House was an ideal base for our memorable family celebration – loved the waterbed, excellent selection of books and welcome hampers and all the extras – walked, scenery, weather & company superb.*

*You deserve your best in NorthEast award.*

Peter & Margaret

**13<sup>th</sup> April 2006**

*I liked going to the beach. Andrew, aged 5*

*I liked the waterfall. Neve, aged 5*

*I liked the garden. Lewis, aged 9½*

*I liked the toy cars. Ellie, aged 2*

*We all had a fantastic time in a superbly equipped house, our only problem was finding it too easy to stay at home and not see the sights of Northumberland.*

*Particularly enjoyed – football on the beach, Cragside, Wallington, Etal railway, & Alnwick Castle.*

*Thanks for a great holiday.*

Lorraine, Drew, etc.

**2<sup>nd</sup> April 2006**

*Thank you very much for allowing us to enjoy your spectacular house.*

*Thanks for a lovely stay – this is a gorgeous house.*

Anna & friends