

**We have off peak/non holiday weeks to let so please ring (01258 880558) or email us ([mkayll@aol.com](mailto:mkayll@aol.com)) to check out for any discounts. You just never know.**

### **Testimonials.**

We have always avoided these as anyone can make up a line such as “ We had a lovely holiday and will definitely come again” Mr & Mrs Smith from London!

So here is an idea, why not email us with your thoughts and we will post them up (heavily edited & censored of course) in this column, and why not include some pictures that you took while at Luccombe. (Even more heavily censored)

To start the ball rolling we now post a few of the many stunningly nice things that our guests have told us this year:

“ I hope you don't mind us saying this, but your web site is definitely letting you down.” The Crosbies, London W1

“We have been going on self catering holidays since 1993 and we can honestly say that the Luccombe experience has been the very best. Everything is provided. There is no need to leave the place.” The Wolfstons, Wembly.

“Thank you for another lovely holiday at Luccombe.” The Balls, Lincolnshire.

“Our children loved it....difficult to improve on.....better than we expected.....didn't need to leave the farm.....will definitely be back. The Makarewicz family, Surrey.

So, if you are reading this as an old guest we would love to hear from you and will post your comments on this page.

### **Sat Navs.**

Guests are still relying on that nice sounding lady who wilfully directs you to the middle of nowhere and then deserts you half a mile from your destination. Sometimes she will try to entice you onto very unsuitable tracks and even across ploughed fields.

**We are easy to find if you just use the old and proven techniques of navigation.**

Approach Luccombe from Winterborne Whitechurch which is on the A354, using the signed Milton Abbas road. Our well signed entrance cannot be missed, as it is the only one, and is exactly 1.5 miles along that road on the left hand side. The private lane is surfaced with tarmac. Just keep on going straight ahead for about ¾ mile over several sleeping policemen. You will pass the riding school and then the attractive Business Centre, the grain store and several houses and barns. Finally you will drop down into our hidden valley and recognise your chosen cottage. It's that easy.

## **News and Views.**

The views can be stunning. You can even see the sea from the top of the farm, on a good day and the news always changes:

### **The gardens**

Our guest's orchard is bursting full of apples and pears. More plum and peach trees together with a vine have been planted this season. I did try to keep the location of our fig trees a well guarded secret, but our more intrepid guests soon found them. There are still plenty ripening now much to the enjoyment of the wasp community.

### **Pets Corner**

Oh dear, another outbreak of ecoli hits the TV screens and leaves many little children very ill. This, naturally blamed on the farm animals, leads all livestock farmers to despair. I must put up notices reminding you to wash your hands both **before and after** touching our various animals. After all, it is only fair to them, as diseases can pass in both directions.

**The Dartmoor ewes** have just received their second shearing of the season. It is unfortunate that they produce so much wool as this has become a profitless, but most necessary exercise. Without shearing they run the increased risk of fly strike, leading to an agonising and slow death from maggots. They can also get stuck on their backs. Getting cast, as we call it. They are then at the mercy of rooks and other birds who delight in trying to peck out the eyes. Baby lambs make a special target. **Picnic**, our Oxford Sandy & Black has failed to fall pregnant to her 2<sup>nd</sup> litter, which means that there will be no small piggies running around until after Christmas. The last of her babies, who were both very sweet, met their maker at the end of August. Sending animals to slaughter is always the sad side of animal husbandry. Still, their sausages and chops are already very much appreciated. **The trout** in the small lake are still leaping about especially in the evenings. They have enjoyed all the recent wet weather, which keeps the ponds topped up. Meanwhile the Alpacas just look on in their aristocratic way, but rather smaller now that they have been shorn at last. "About time" they squealed as the shearer set about his noisy work. It is no wonder that Alpacas are considered 'life style pets'.

**The hens** are still laying some lovely brown eggs, and now they have been joined by the four guinea fowl, which tend to drop their eggs all over the place. Well it was four but one insisted in leaping out of their 'secure' compound and the fox was waiting..... We were toying with the idea of letting them hatch some chicks. Guinea fowl make very good eating. **The ducks** are also very chatty when let out each morning and will come over to greet you in the full expectation of food. So, have those slices of bread ready the moment you arrive!

**Our New Bespoke Play Area** is open to our guests under twelve years old and we hope it will provide hours of fun for parents and children in the future.

### **Events**

We hosted a couple of 60<sup>th</sup> birthday parties in the Spring as well as a couple of hen parties. Since then, several extended families have come together here at Luccombe. There is a wedding party booked for next year. The many things that we have to offer must be part of the attraction as well as the peace and quiet of the place. We have just

installed **Wifi**, for the committed workaholics, which will mean that there is no escape for you. Bad luck!

**And so onto the credit crunch**,.....and this Indian Summer. Once the Government announced that things were improving our telephone lines became red hot, and September, aided by some sunshine, no doubt, has been extremely busy! October leaves a bit to be desired, and perhaps by then we will all be feeling miserable again. Many of you are coming back and picking up that small discount and we would like to **thank you sincerely for your loyalty**. Last Easter, five out of our six cottages were filled by returning guests. We are waiting for a six/six.



With very best regards, and good luck in the wider world, and hoping to see you here one day,

Murray and Amanda.

PS. We have taken your comments on board and a new web site is about to explode onto your screens. It is called [www.dorsetcottageholidays.eu](http://www.dorsetcottageholidays.eu)

