

Gelston Castle Holidays - News for 2012

2012 prices

- ▶ Again no price increases!
- ▶ Off-peak discounts: our range of discounts for off-peak periods (actually three quarters of the year!) remain the most generous in the business. If these discounts are factored in, you'll find we are cheaper than comparable places in Scotland, and even cheaper than places which have rather less to offer.

Christmas and New Year - get away to Gelston

We still have some availability. Why not escape the hurly-burly and let us sort out the Christmas tree and turkey for you? For full details of our unique Christmas package, see our website: www.gelstoncastle.com, section When To Come, subsection Christmas Package.

Best beds in the business

Earlier this year we completed our comprehensive (and expensive!) overhaul, so now every bed has a top class British-made pocket-sprung mattress with a luxuriously deep memory-foam layer. The quality of beds in the self-catering world is notoriously patchy, but we think it's something that really matters.

Gardens and grounds

- ▶ Having spent much time and money on vital tree work (which included making many over-mature trees safe), we are now entering a more ambitious phase of work on the gardens and grounds, which will take many years to come to fruition. With the help of two designers we have started making plans, and by next season we hope to have made at least a few improvements to the walled garden and some of the areas beyond - but fear not, we don't intend to detract from the usability of the space (e.g. as a games area), nor from its relaxed and informal character.
- ▶ The gardeners have been let loose on Kirkmirren, with the aim of creating a more attractive cottage garden, as well as greatly improving basic maintenance.

Bicycle hire

Just a reminder that we now have two bikes available for hire @ £10 a day (or £20 for 3 days).

Other improvements in brief

- ▶ Cleaners: courtyard houses 1, 2 and 4 are now being cleaned by a very professional new team.
- ▶ Two new barbecues have been built, and already much appreciated by guests!
- ▶ Windows: much work is planned on repairs and renewals.
- ▶ TV: the Caldbeck transmitter in Cumbria is now higher, so (with the installation of a different aerial) we can get signal from there instead of the minor relay near Dalbeattie. Now you can get the full range of Freeview channels (incl. Film4 etc.), and both the Scottish and English versions of BBC 1 & 2.
- ▶ The main drive has been resurfaced with the help of an IMF loan, using attractive material from the Tongland quarry - the discreet flecks of white are from naturally occurring veins of amethyst.
- ▶ The old non-tarmac drive is being renewed (with improved drainage), mainly using estate stone.
- ▶ New top grade tennis net, with regulation measuring stick to set the correct height - no more excuses!
- ▶ New tumble-drier token operators, and new improved system for laundry tokens - you no longer have to look for someone to supply them!
- ▶ Tea towels: we are looking into alternatives to getting these from the local laundry - the problem with self-catering is that tea towels soon get permanently marked and/or damaged.

Alexander & Lucinda Scott
Gelston, 14 November 2011