

**Keith and Judith Alvey**

**Stared volunteering at Lyveden in 1996**

Our first visit to Lyveden was in the days when Lyveden was only open occasionally to organised groups. We visited Lyveden as members of the local Historical Society and were shown around by Ted Faulkner, the gentleman in charge of Lyveden at that time. We were rather disappointed by this visit as it was almost impossible to imagine the layout of the grounds. The site had been neglected for years and the moats and mounts were almost hidden from sight by trees and overgrown vegetation.

It was some years later during a walk along the public footpath that we encountered Mark sitting outside the cottage selling tickets to enter the property. Even in the short time that he had been employed by the National Trust it was possible to see the improvements he had already made, and he talked enthusiastically to us about his plans for the future of Lyveden.

It was a few years later that we became volunteers and helped to run the Visitor Centre in the shed. We have happy memories of meeting people from all over the country who were entranced by the solitude and beauty of Lyveden, whatever the weather conditions.

In later years we worked in the cottage garden, where we enjoyed chatting to the tearoom customers who took great interest in what we were doing and were keen to know the names of the plants.



We also provided lunch at the Volunteers Day which took place annually at Glapthorn Village Hall.

We attended lots of the events held at Lyveden which included plays, Sunday brass concerts, Christmas carol services, and guided wildflower walks.

We realise how lucky we were to be able to spend time in such lovely surroundings doing work which was so enjoyable.