

Margaret Feggetter

Started volunteering at Lyveden in 1999

Volunteering started for me when my husband saw an advert in the local paper wanting volunteers for Lyveden. The first meeting was in the visitor's centre, all squashed in, that was in 1999. I spent many happy hours at Lyveden in all sorts of weather, sun, rain snow and frosts. It was always very beautiful on a snowy and frosty day.

In the early days we were on our own in the visitor's centre. It was a matter of judgement as to how much or how little visitors wanted to know about Lyveden, some wanted to explore for themselves, others wanted as many facts as possible. We ate our lunch between visitors.

Over the 20+ years I have volunteered, I have done several additional jobs, helping out with a corporate event to helping with the tree planting in the orchard and later the archive and knitting groups and most recently the little acorns toddler group.

When the orchard was completed, Mark Bradshaw was selling trees, I agreed to buy one and eventually Mark had some very small trees with no labels. I agreed to have five trees and they turned out to be four Catshead and one Worcester Permain. I have usually provided apples from the trees to Lyveden's apple days.



Some amusing incidents have occurred during my time, one example is that one lady came up when we only had a coffee machine and demanded to know where the restaurant was. I was puzzled and said we don't have one. She said 'but it was in the National Trust guide book.' On further investigation, the symbol she was looking at was catering for special occasions rather than a restaurant. She was not too pleased.

The mother and toddler group was very successful and for the year it was available, the group increased significantly; grannies, grandads and mothers all coming back and saying how much they and their children had enjoyed the activities. In the last one, we had more people wanting to come to it than places and we, unfortunately, had to turn several people away.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my volunteering at Lyveden, meeting new people and enjoying a lovely peaceful place.