

Lynn and I became volunteers by chance after Susan (Lees) had mentioned that Lyveden we always looking for volunteers. Being fairly newly retired we thought, "Oh we could do that!" and 12 years later we are still there! We made a date to visit Lyveden one Saturday for an informal induction. We still thought we could do that and so our volunteering at Lyveden began.

Although the road to the car park left much to be desired, the first sight of the Bield never lost its magic. In the early days we learnt how to use the drinks machine (and how to read off the number sold at the end of the day!) and also how to deal with four rolls of tickets - members, non-members standard, non-members gift aid and car park. Occasionally there was panic when we realised the wrong colour ticket had been given out which meant that the till wouldn't balance.

Part of our duties in the early days was car park duty. If the weather was kind one could sit outside to welcome and direct visitors; if cold and wet one just popped out from the shed on hearing a car arrive.

The weather certainly played a part in our memories. Sitting outside on sunny days eating an ice cream near the end of a shift, children emptying out their wellies after a particularly wet Easter egg hunt and chatting to visitors who enjoyed sitting in the deck chairs in the sunshine.

We enjoyed meeting regular visitors to the site: families who came to explore, folk who had donated trees in the orchard - and the swallows! Each year we and visitors were fascinated watching the fledglings grow and fledge.



We have happy memories of both visitors, staff and other volunteers who helped to make our shifts so rewarding.