

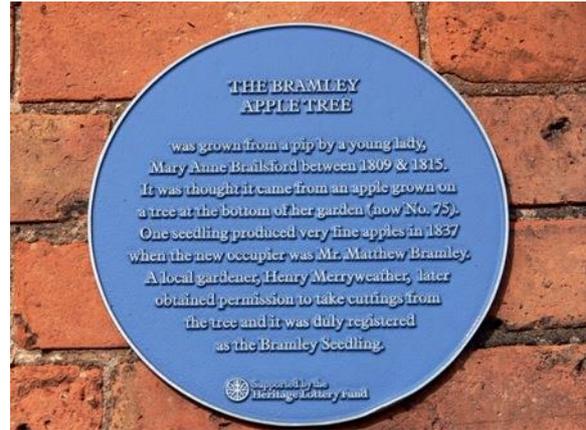
Visit To Southwell Workhouse 10th October 2016.



Southwell in Nottinghamshire is a very attractive town. We were able to have a good look around after arriving at 11.30am. Some of us went to see the Minster - a superb Cathedral and Minster Church with a Norman Nave which is one of the finest in Europe.



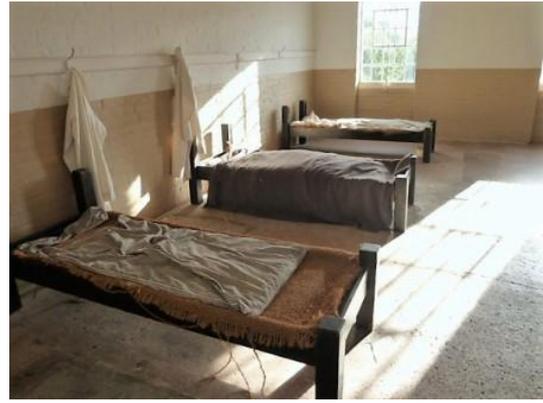
Its many features include the magnificent Angel Window and the world renowned Chapter House stone carvings the 'Leaves of Southwell'.



Others searched out the home of the Bramley Apple or explored the town itself with its many shops and places to eat.



After lunch we all went on the coach to the Workhouse. This austere building, the most complete workhouse in existence, was built in 1824 as a place of last resort for the poor and needy. Its architecture, influenced by prison design and its harsh regime became a blueprint for workhouses throughout the country.



We were given a tour by four very enthusiastic Guides and learned about the lives of the inmates.



Adults were divided into categories - those unable to work (called 'blameless') and those capable of work but unemployed (considered 'idle and profligate able bodied').

These categories were further subdivided into men and women; children were kept separate. Each group lived in a different area, meaning families could not meet. Inmates were fed, clothed, housed and some were made to work and children received a form of education.

It was all intended to be a deterrent – not somewhere one would wish to be unless absolutely desperate. We were very surprised to hear that the Workhouse was still in use as temporary accommodation for homeless people until the 1970s.

Our visit ended with tea and biscuits before leaving for home at 4.30 pm. The day had been most interesting and the weather had been very kind for the time of year.

**Many thanks to Anna for the Article and to
John and Mike for the photographs.**