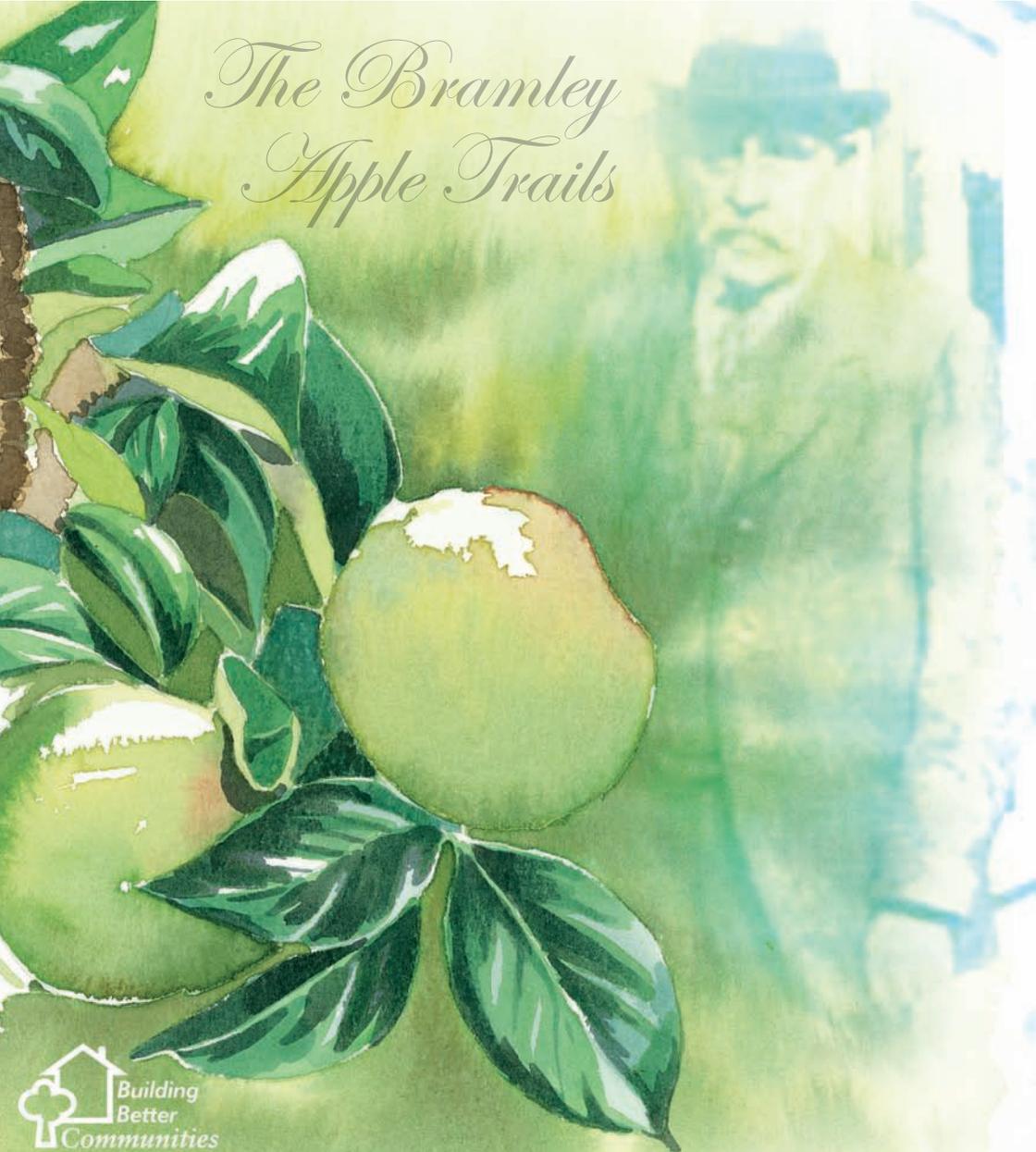




**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Southwell Bramley Apple Heritage Walks

*The Bramley
Apple Trails*





Acknowledgements

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Bramley Apple Trail



Key

- Heritage Point
- Trail route



The Bramley Apple Trail

Heritage Walk One

Distance: Approx 3.1 km / 2 miles

Time: 45mins – 1 hour

Accessibility: The majority of this route is on pavements and is both wheelchair and pushchair friendly.

Introduction

The Bramley Apple story starts with Mary Ann Brailsford, a young Southwellian who took some pips from the apples her mother was preparing and planted them in a flower pot. As one of the pips was doing so well, it was later transferred to the young girl's garden where it began to thrive. It is this tree that first began to bear a unique apple, one that has become a favourite of the nation and one of the most respected apples in the world.

Park in the car park opposite the Minster (parking is free for the first two hours) and as you come out of the car park turn right and walk up towards the Saracen's Head Hotel. At the junction turn right again and continue up Kings Street until you are outside the Bramley Centre (Public Library). Follow the little alley way down the side of the Bramley Centre, taking you to the car park.



Heritage Point One: **The Bramley Centre**

The Bramley tree that can be found in the Bramley Centre car park, used to be in a garden of one of the houses the car park backs on to. The tree is approximately 80 years old, cared for by Roger Merryweather (the great grandson of Henry Merryweather, first propagator of the Bramley Apple) and is, by virtue of the conservation area status of Southwell, protected by law.

Come back through the alley way and turn left to continue on up King Street. On the brow of the hill take the road that veers left. Taking in the view of the beautiful historical buildings lining the Burgage, continue on over Newark Road onto Station Road.





Heritage Point Two: **The Old Station**

Although the old station is no longer in existence, there still remains some of the station's track furniture showing where the gates and fencing were once located. An old traditional station house still stands and the Newcastle Arms, a hostelry that was built especially to accommodate travellers, is still providing refreshments. The station played a major part in the history of the Bramley Apple as it was due to its opening in 1860 that Henry Merryweather was able to transport his produce on the regular passenger service towards Nottingham. When the Southwell to Mansfield line opened in 1871, Henry made the most of the opportunities that a newly forming national transport network provided and was able to broaden his market across the country.



Turn right onto Riverside then almost immediately bear left. The footpath takes you along the river and through the newly planted Community Orchard up to the A612, Easthorpe. As you stand on Easthorpe road having come through the Community Orchard, you can see where the old railway line used to run. From here, look left where you can see the Old Workhouse.



Heritage Point Three: **The Community Orchard**

Within the Community Orchard, three Bramley Apple trees have been planted to commemorate the bicentenary of the world famous apple in 2009. The trees were donated by Roger Merryweather who, along with his brother, were the last members of the family involved with running H. Merryweather & Sons nursery.



Heritage Point Four: **The Southwell Workhouse**

The Southwell Workhouse, now in the ownership of the National Trust, is a unique building as it is the only workhouse to survive 'fully intact' from its period.



In what used to be the main vegetable garden, three large Bramley Apple trees can be seen, presumably planted to provide fresh fruit which could be used and kept all year round. Although these trees would have supplied copious amounts of apples each year, there are no records that the paupers of the workhouse ever had Bramley Apples included within their diet. It is more likely that the fruit was only available to the staff and guardians, or, possibly sold outside on the market.

Little is known about the trees but it is believed they may have been purchased from H. Merryweather & Sons nursery c.1900. Please contact the Workhouse for details of opening times.

Facing away from the Workhouse, continue forward along Easthorpe (with care as this is a busy road) towards Fiskerton Road but turn right at the Old Coach House and head towards Church Street and the town centre. After passing the Hearty Goodfellow pub on your right and about opposite Farthingate, is the former home of Mary Ann Brailsford.



Heritage Point Five: **No 73 & the first Tree**

No 73 Easthorpe is where the Brailsford family lived when their eldest daughter, Mary Ann, planted the pip that grew and produced the first Bramley Apples in the 1830s. The original tree still grows and produces fruit every year (although now in the garden of No 75) and can still be clearly seen from the car park of the adjacent public house – the Hearty Goodfellow. Matthew Bramley was the owner of the cottage at the time when Henry Merryweather took grafts from the tree and propagated the species, hence the name 'Bramley'.

On the left hand side of the cottage is the Bramley Apple pub, originally called the George and Dragon when it first opened in the late 18th century. The pub took on the name of the famous Southwellian fruit at a much later date.



Continue on along Easthorpe and head towards Southwell town centre. Before turning back into the car park, cross over the road and take a few minutes to walk around the Minster, or even go inside.

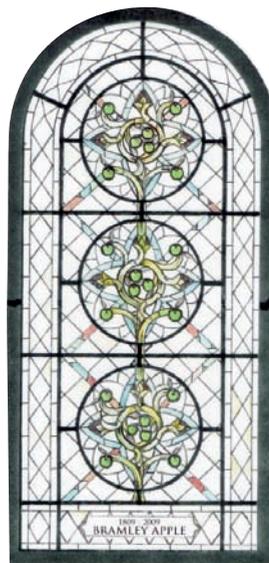


Heritage Point Six: **Southwell Minster**

Although the Minster had played a major role within Nottinghamshire church hierarchy for nearly eight centuries, the Minster only became the cathedral for Nottinghamshire in 1884, within the newly formed diocese of Southwell. Along with being a well loved parish church, the Minster also serves as a cathedral to 313 other parish churches in the diocese of Southwell.

Take a very close look at the stained glass windows in the north transept.

Sensitively designed and incorporated with the other stained glassed windows, a window has been placed in celebration of the bicentenary of Southwell's historic fruit, the Bramley Apple.



Once you have finished at the Minster, the car park is just across the road.

Bramley Apple



Key

-  Start Point
-  Heritage Point
-  Trail route

Historical Trail





The Bramley Apple Trail

Heritage Walk Two

Distance: Approx 10km / 6¼miles

Time: 2.5 - 3hours

Accessibility: Some parts may be muddy and there are a number of stiles to overcome, making this walk unsuitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. However, the section along the Southwell Trail is accessible for all.

Introduction

The apple that has become one of Southwell's most celebrated assets may have gone unnoticed if it had not been for a certain young Henry Merryweather who was born at Carlton on Trent in 1839. His father, also Mr Henry Merryweather, had been in the employment of Reverend John Drake Becher as a gardener.

In 1840 John Drake Becher moved to take up residence at Norwood Hall and he took his gardener with him to look after the extensive gardens which supplied the needs of the house. Henry's youngest son joined him at the age of 10, allowing Henry Jnr to gain a first class knowledge of horticulture at very young age, with a particular emphasis on the many different fruits which were grown in the grounds and the walled kitchen garden.

The history of Henry Merryweather and the Bramley Apple gently unfolds as you follow this Heritage Trail, which also includes some other significant heritage points which have come to have connections to the Bramley. We hope you enjoy yourself.

Park in Bishop's Drive car park (this is a free car park, signed posted from the A612 opposite Dunham House) and follow the footpath running along the edge of the field, leading towards the Minster.



Heritage Point One: **Southwell Minster**

Southwell Minster is one of the main focal points of the town, with its unusual 'pepperpot' roofs, beautiful stained-glass windows and its famous status as Nottinghamshire's Cathedral.

The origins of the Minster began in Saxon times when it was recorded that Paulinus, a missionary archbishop from York, visited Southwell and founded a church. Several centuries later the Normans (who were great builders of such buildings) rebuilt the original structure and created it as an independent church within the diocese of York.



Although the building was considerably damaged during the occupation of the Parliamentary forces during the Civil War (1642 – 46), it was saved from further destruction by the good offices of Mr Edward Cludd, who was then resident at Norwood Park. It was not until the mid-19th century that extensive works were undertaken to restore, repair and improve the damaged church, making it the Cathedral of Nottinghamshire in 1884.

Within the North transept, a stained glass window has been newly placed in celebration of the Bramley Apple, signifying unison between church and town, both of whom recognise the apple as a symbol of life and its importance in the history of Southwell.

From the Minster, walk up Church Street towards the Saracen's Head, turn right in front of the famous pub (see Heritage Trail 2) and then turn almost immediately left up Queen Street. Continue up along Queen Street, over The Ropewalk and out of the town. As you leave the town, along Halam Road, you will notice an executive housing estate. This is the former site of H. Merryweather & Sons Nursery and it was here that the Bramley Apple was first cultivated and eventually commercialised.



Heritage Point Two: **H. Merryweather & Son Nursery**

H. Merryweather & Sons Nursery and the cultivating of the Bramley Apple had very humble beginnings.

Henry worked with his father at Norwood Park for five years before they decided to buy two acres of land along Halam Road in 1854. This was so that the Merryweathers could begin their own nurseries and two acres was sufficient for H. Merryweather & Sons to start their business. In the early days, H. Merryweather & Sons concentrated on cultivating and selling fruit, and in particular strawberries.



The Merryweathers must have had foresight when buying their land and beginning their new enterprise, as at around the same time the railway was beginning to allow people to travel further and the penny post opened up much greater opportunities for marketing from this small nursery.

Go past the former site of Merryweather & Sons Nursery, continue along Halam Road and then take the signposted footpath to the right. The footpath leads up through Norwood Park, through the golf course and on towards Maythorne.



Heritage Point Three: **Norwood Park**

Norwood (meaning 'north wood') Park has a particular significance within the Bramley Apple Heritage Trail because it is here that Henry Merryweather worked along side his father as a gardener, acquiring detailed knowledge about the cultivation of plants and the skills needed to be a top class nurseryman.

Mr Henry Merryweather had come to Norwood Park to manage the gardens in 1840 and at the tender age of 10, Henry joined his father in 1849 to work alongside him after finishing his education at Bucklow's School in Queen Street. By the time young Henry had joined his father at Norwood, John Drake Becher had moved to Hill House (within the town) upon the death of his father and Lord Arthur Edwin Hill MP had taken up residence of the Norwood Estate.



Once you have come through Norwood Park, cross over Lower Kirklington Road and head down Maythorne Lane. Just before you reach the small hamlet of Maythorne, turn right onto the Southwell Trail. Follow the Southwell Trail until you reach Station Road.



Heritage Point Four: **Southwell Trail**

Once a busy railway line, the old track bed between Farnsfield and Rolleston Junction now forms the Southwell Trail, the longest stretch of continuous lost railway (7½ miles) to be fully open to the public on foot, bicycle or horseback.

The Southwell Trail also played a significant role within the story of the Bramley Apple as it was with the help of a newly developing railway network that H. Merryweather & Sons were able to market their produce and gardening products to a much larger audience.



When you come to the end of the Southwell Trail, cross over Station Road and turn onto Riverside then almost immediately bear left. The footpath takes you along the river and through the newly planted Community Orchard where you will see three young Bramley Apple trees as you walk up to the A612, Easthorpe. As you stand on Easthorpe having come through the Community Orchard, you can see where the old railway line used to run. From here look left where you can see the Workhouse.



Heritage Point Five: **The Southwell Workhouse**

The Southwell Workhouse, now in the ownership of the National Trust, is a unique building as it is the only workhouse to survive ‘fully intact’ from its period.

In what used to be the main vegetable garden, three large Bramley Apple trees can be seen, presumably planted to provide fresh fruit which could be used and kept all year round. Although these trees would have supplied copious amounts of apples each year, there are no records that the paupers of the workhouse ever had Bramley Apples included within their diet. It is more likely that the fruit was only available to the staff and guardians, or, possibly sold outside on the market.

Little is known about the trees but it is believed they may have been purchased from H. Merryweather & Sons nursery c.1900.



Please contact the Workhouse for details of opening times.

Facing away from the Workhouse, continue forward along Easthorpe (with care as this is a busy road) towards Fiskerton Road. Cross over the road at Metcalfe Close and follow the footpath through the bungalows. This footpath will lead you through two small paddock fields and out onto the Fiskerton Road, just above the Garden Centre. Walk up to Brinkley Hall Farm and follow the bridleway/footpath.



Heritage Point Six: **Merryweather's Orchard**

The Heritage Orchard was planted in 2004 and consists of varieties being grown by H. Merryweather & Sons at the time the company ceased to trade. There are more than 30 varieties of apple and in addition a small number of other fruits, such as the Merryweather Damson, Victoria Plum, Quince and Nottingham Medlar.

A shelter belt of Birch, Liquidamber and Acer has been planted to give interest and more varieties of fruit will be added to gradually extend the orchard.



Follow the footpath from the Heritage Orchard, crossing over Pollards Lane and Crink Lane and through a small block of woodland. Follow the footpath cutting across the corner of the field before going through a small enclosed alley which takes you through the bungalow estate. When you reach the road, bear left and follow the road round until you see another enclosed alley way (signposted) through the bungalows. This will lead you to the old Minster School playing fields. Follow the footpath to the far right hand corner of the field joining the Potwell Dyke footpath, bringing you out on Church Street.



Heritage Point Seven: **Church Street, Easthorpe**

For centuries Easthorpe was very much its own little village with a few shops, several farms, its own school and many small industries connected either to agriculture, malting or framework knitting.

No 73 Easthorpe is where the Brailsford family lived when their eldest daughter, Mary Ann, planted the pip that germinated and produced the first Bramley Apples in the 1830s. The original tree still grows and produces fruit every year (although now in the garden of No 75) and can still be clearly seen from the car park of the adjacent public house – the Hearty Goodfellow. Matthew Bramley was the owner of the cottage at the time when Henry Merryweather took grafts from the tree and propagated the species, hence the name 'Bramley'.

On the left hand side of Bramley cottage is the Bramley Apple pub, originally called the George and Dragon when it first opened in the late 18th century.



Walk past the Hearty Goodfellow Pub and turn left up Shady Lane, follow this path to where it joins Burgage Lane then turn left, walking a little way up and then turning left down Becher's Walk.



Heritage Point Eight: **Becher's Hill House**

Hill House was the home of John Thomas Becher, most famous for his connections with the Southwell Workhouse and the House of Correction, but also the father of Reverend John Drake Becher who brought his gardener to work for him when he took up residence at Norwood Hall, and hence the introduction of the Merryweather family to Southwell and the beginning of the Bramley Apple story.



The story of John Thomas Becher can be read in Heritage Trail 1, obtainable from the Tourist Office next to the Minster.

The bottom of Becher's Walk footpath brings you out opposite the Minster and almost back to your starting point. Cross back over the road to the Minster, go through the first set of gates, pass through the church yard keeping to the footpath on the left and follow path taking you back to Bishop's Drive car park.