

## **Hold the Date for the Bicentennial of The Workhouse at Southwell National Trust**

We are holding a commemoration and community event on 13 July from 13:00 – 16:00. We are inviting people from within the local community to come along and mark this moment with us.

We would be very pleased if you can hold the date of the event and a formal invite will follow.

The event will be held at The Workhouse, Upton Road, Southwell NG25 0PT.

Please respond with an email indicating Yes, Maybe or Sorry cannot make it.

### **Some of the 200 years history.**

In October 1823, a local JP, Rev. J T Becher, called a meeting inviting all interested parties within a 10-mile radius of Southwell to discuss setting up an incorporation and build a workhouse as a way of reducing poor relief taxes. The meeting was held on the 31 October 1823 and agreed to create the Thurgarton Incorporation of 56 parishes, build a workhouse and run it along the lines of George Nicholls' Southwell Workhouse.

Building the new workhouse started in April 1824 and it was opened 8 months later in December of that year.

Since then, some of the significant events in the history of the Workhouse:

- 1836 Under the provisions of the New Poor Law of 1834, the Thurgarton Incorporation was transformed into the Southwell Union of 60 parishes, maintaining the Workhouse at its centre.
- 1871 The Workhouse Infirmary was built, but the first trained and qualified professional nurse was not appointed until 1901.
- 1885 The Workhouse School was closed and children from the Workhouse went to local schools.
- Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Introduction of Old Age Pensions (1908) and National Insurance (1911) changed the nature of Workhouses which became more like an elderly care home, while the Workhouse infirmary was increasingly serving the medical needs of the community – not just Workhouse inmates.
- 1948 Welfare State enacted and the former workhouses were administered by the National Assistance Board.
- 1950s-80s The top floors of the Workhouse were converted into temporary bedsit accommodation for homeless families.
- 1997 National Trust purchased the Southwell Workhouse and opened it to the public in 2002.

We look forward to welcoming you. Watch out for your formal invite.