

## Local Snippets:

Pineapple  
Finials  
of  
The  
Manor  
House,  
Greatworth.



Two square stone piers on moulded plinths with very large, finely carved pineapple finials mark the entrance to the original Manor. The very large house was destroyed by fire on Christmas Eve 1793. It is recorded that flames could be seen from forty miles away.

Until 1935 Greatworth was divided by the Helmdon Rd. and the Lane into two villages. Houses on the West side formed the village of Westthorp and those on the East constituted Greatworth Village. The united village now has two Manors.

The line of the Stratford Midland Junction Railway is easily definable (although not a public right of way), both East and South of Greatworth. It is part of the branch that ran from Banbury to Northampton and closed in 1951, only 79 years after its opening. Used mostly as a goods line it carried many truck-loads of cattle from Banbury Market.

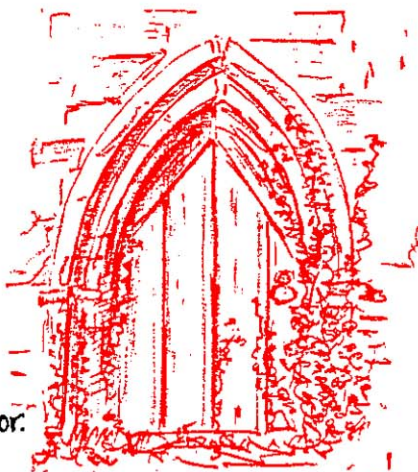
Some fields on the map are marked with their respective field names. These old fieldnames usually reflect their past history. for example: Stone Pit, Dairy Ground, Riding Gale.

From the viewpoint in Riding Gale (an old field name) the footpath rises to 550 feet and affords a view of five churches. Three of these - Greatworth, Farthinghoe and Marston St Lawrence have towers. The churches of King's Sutton and Middleton Cheney have spires.

Greatworth has an American connection. The first president of America, George Washington, was descended from Lawrence Washington and Amy Tomson. Amy Tomson was Lawrence's 2nd wife, his 1st wife died childless. Amy, daughter of Robert Pargiter of Greatworth, was widowed herself before marrying Lawrence Washington. By Amy he had four sons and seven daughters, living at nearby Sulgrave Manor. The Washington Family Coat of Arms, in a window of St. James Church, Sulgrave, bears evidence of Amy Pargiter's connections with the Washingtons.

The "Osier Bed", South-West of Greatworth, is so named after a group of very old Willow trees that grow in the wet area. The "withys" or new growth on the willows were once used for basket-making and peg-making.

St Peter's Church,  
Greatworth.  
South-facing chancel door.



- ★ enjoy the countryside & respect its life and work
- ★ guard against all risks of fire
- ★ fasten all gates
- ★ keep your dogs under close control
- ★ keep to public footpaths across farmland
- ★ use gates & stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
- ★ leave livestock, crops & machinery alone
- ★ take your litter home
- ★ help to keep all water clean
- ★ protect wildlife, plants & trees
- ★ take special care on country roads
- ★ make no unnecessary noise

### Information

approach by road: Greatworth is in South Northamptonshire, approximately 10 Kms, east of Banbury. The village can be reached via the main roads A43, A422 or B4525

### Comments and enquiries

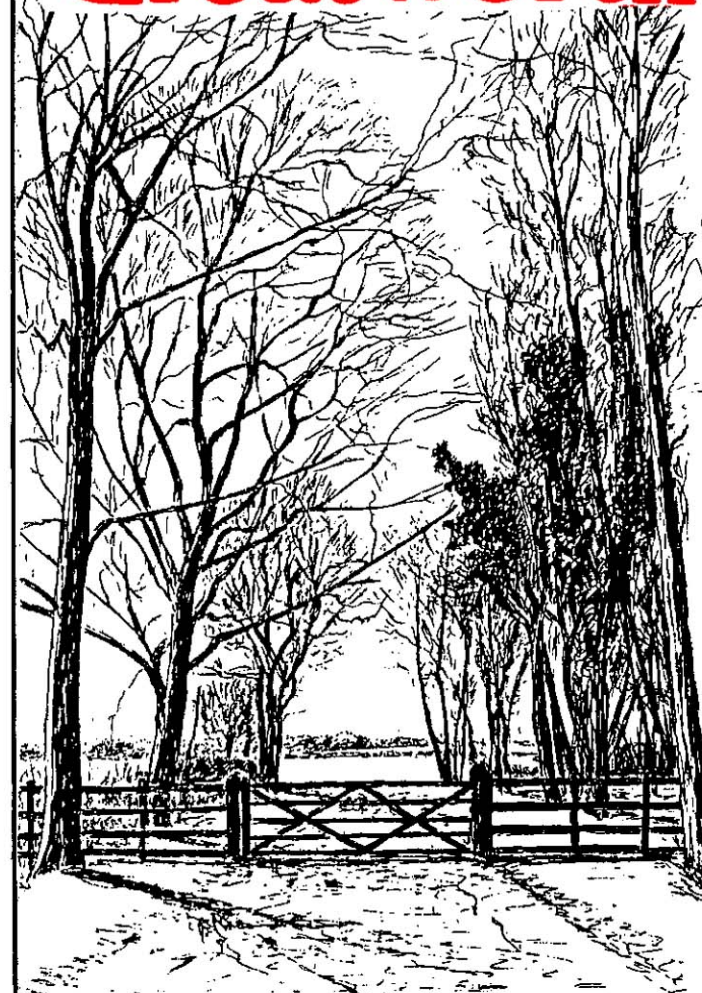
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Text by Pam Carpenter



An "out and about in Northamptonshire" publication  
COUNTRYSIDE WALKS LEAFLET No 14

# Countryside Walks Greatworth



Bridlepath to Radstone, near Halse Copse,  
in Greatworth Parish.



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