Local Snippets:

Pineapple Finials of the Manor House, Greatworth.

Two square stone pieces 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 1993. It is reported that flames could be seen from forty miles away.

Until 1935 Greatworth was divided by the Holmewood Rd. and the lane into two villages. Houses on the west side formed the village of Westhorp and those on the east constituted Greatworth Village. The united village now has two Manors.

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

Some fields on the map are marked with their respective field names. These old field names usually reflect their past history, for example: Stone Rd. Daisies, Moor, Riding Gate.

From the viewpoint in Riding Gate (the old field name) the footpath rises to 550 ft 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 Tonnor. Amy Tonnor was Lawrence's 2nd wife, his 1st wife died childless. Amy daughter of Robert Pigott of Greatworth, was widowed shortly before marrying Lawrence Washington. ByAmy he had four sons and seven daughters, living at nearby Sulgrave Manor. The Washington family East of Arms, in a window of St. James Church, Sulgrave bears evidence of Amy Pigott's connections with the Washingtons.

The 'Oxler Bal', South west of Greatworth, is so named after a group of very old Willow trees that grow in the wet area. The 'willows' or reed growth on the willows were once used for basket-making and peg-making.

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

Countryside Walks Greatworth

- enjoy the countryside a respect its life and work
- gain against all odds of time
- follow all gates
- keep your dog under close control
- keep to public footpaths across farmland
- use gates & stiles in cross fences, hedges and walls
- leave livestock on a machinery alone.
- take care litter here
- help keep all water clean
- protect wildlife, plants & trees
- take special care on country roads
- make no unnecessary noise

Information

The approach by road is Greatworth is in South Northamptonshire approximately 10 Kms, east of Banbury. The village can be reached via the main roads A43, A422 or B4622.

Comments and enquiries

If you experience any difficulties on your walks please report them to the County Rights of Way Officer, Northamptonshire, Northampton. Telephone: 22670.

Northamptonshire County Council are interested in your written suggestions and comments on these routes. A full list of publications is available by sending an SAE to the County Libraries Office, 27 Guildhall Rd, Northampton NN1 1EF.

Compiled for Greatworth Parish Council. Drawings by Gerald Green, HS and Mike Holman, Text by Paul Carpenter.

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A countryside view west of Greatworth Village

Two footpaths start from the churchyard. Whilst there, take a look at the magnificent sycamore tree and some very old gravestones.

The ancient ridge and furrow of the medieval farming system can clearly be seen in front of the Manor. Look out on other walks for enclosure hedges that were planted across the ridge and furrow about 1334.

St Peter's Churchyard, Greatworth

The Manor House, Greatworth

KEY:
- Grate
- Stile
- Footbridge
- F.P. Finger post
- Parish boundary
- Viewpoint

O.S. Maps S.P. 44.W. / S.P. 44.E.