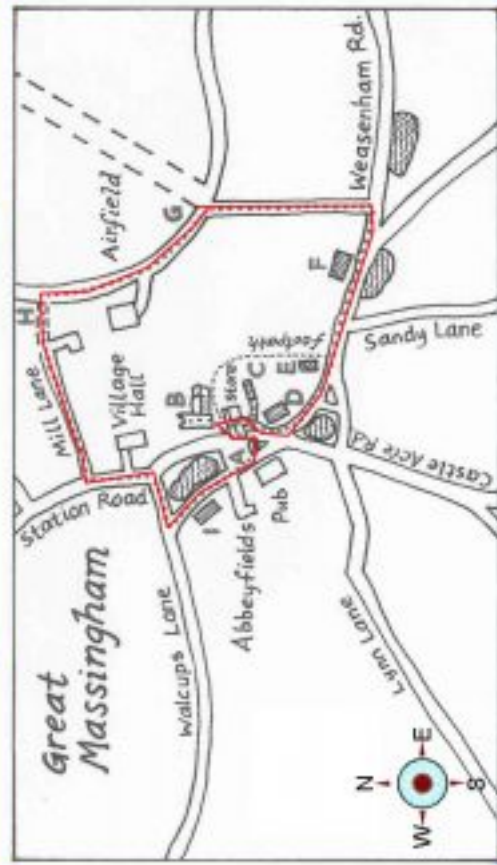


# THE GREAT MASSINGHAM STROLLERS' GUIDE

1

## AROUND THE VILLAGE



**Distance:** 2 miles. **Terrain:** Roads and tarmac paths. Suitable for wheelchairs.

### Directions:

Beginning at The Well (A) cross over to St Mary's Church (B). The key to the church can be obtained from The Village Store. Return the key and turn left on leaving the Village Store and take the next left. Follow the path to the right of the new house. The old Reading Room (C) forms part of this new building. Return on this same path and then bear left to walk down School Road past The Old Swan (D). Continue down School Road into Weasenham Road past the school and the Old School House (E). Proceed down Weasenham Road by the Old Rectory (F) on your left with Rectory Row and the old pump on your right.

After approximately 100 yards turn left up a single and metal road leading to the airfield (G). Turn left onto the airfield and walk along the taxiing runway and past the hangar until you reach the public footpath signpost pointing left only. Turn left down Mill Lane (H). At the bottom cross Station Road and turn left and then right into Walcups Lane. Turn left into Abbey Road past the pond Scotsman's Pit on your left and Abbey House (I) on your right.

### Points of Interest

Letters are shown on map.



**A. The Well.** The present structure was erected to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. The original well still exists under the concrete slab. It is reputed to be as "deep as the church is high!"

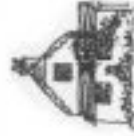


**B. St Mary's Church.** A key to enter the church can be obtained from the Village Store which also sells a detailed guide to the history of the church.

**C. The Old Reading Room.** This was originally Great Massingham's school which opened in 1838. It was designed by William Taylor who also designed the Old School House on Weasenham Road.



**D. The Old Swan Public House.** This is one of the oldest buildings in the village and dates from the eighteenth century. It remained as a public house until 1979.



**E. The Old School House.** Built at the same time as the Old Reading Room, there are similar design features such as the ornamental lintels around the windows.

**F. The Old Rectory.** This imposing three storied building dates from the 19th century. It remained as one of the last farming livings in the country until 1980 when it was replaced by the current rectory on Station Road.

**G. Massingham Airfield.** This was an active RAF base during World War II and became the home of the 107 Squadron flying Blenheim bombers and later Bostons. Towards the end of the war 169 Squadron arrived flying Mosquitoes. The airfield was sold to the present owner in 1958. A detailed history of RAF Massingham can be accessed by contacting Anthony Robinson at The Barns. Tel. 01485 520307. Please note that this is a private airfield and follow the foot-path signs.

**H. Mill Lane.** A post mill was situated at the top of this lane and was used to produce flour. It was destroyed by fire in 1916.



**I. Abbey House.** This was previously a farm house, the barns and outbuildings of which now form Abbeyfields. The farm buildings and house are on the site of a 13th century priory which was linked with the priory at Castle Acre. Many of its stones are to be found in the current buildings.



With acknowledgements to The Debbing Duck and the Great Massingham Strollers

