

Monmouth Way - Opened in May 1997 the path is so named because of Toddington's association with the Duke of Monmouth.

Born in 1649 James Scott, the Duke of Monmouth was the illegitimate son of Charles II. Henrietta, daughter of Thomas Wentworth (Chancellor to Charles II), was born at Toddington Manor on 11th August 1660. Henrietta and James met at the Royal Court and immediately fell in love. On attaining the age of 21 Henrietta inherited the family fortune and although unmarried she and the Duke lived together at Toddington Manor for a short while.

In 1684 James Duke of York, (Monmouth's half-brother) was crowned King James II. It was then that Monmouth and Henrietta journeyed to Holland, (financed by mortgaging the Toddington estate and selling the family jewels) they began plotting the overthrow of James II. Monmouth sailed for England with a mercenary army and landed at Lyme Regis on 21st June 1685, and proceeded towards Bridgewater in Somerset, where he hoped to recruit more troops. His army was intercepted at Sedgemoor by the Royalists and a fierce battle took place. Monmouth was defeated and was captured whilst attempting to escape to the continent. Subsequently he was tried and beheaded at the Tower of London on 5th July 1685.

Henrietta returned to England, almost bankrupt and in ill health, she died on 23rd April 1686 and was interred in the family vault in Toddington Church.