



# Welcome to Great Missenden

~ROAD DAHL COUNTRY~  
~HEART OF THE CHILTERN~

## LOCAL GUIDE

### Our history

In Saxon times, Great Missenden lay on the route between the Royal Estates of King Harold in High Wycombe and Queen Elgiva of Chosham.

By the time the Domesday Book was compiled in 1086, there were 12 households in the village.

The George Inn and Court House date from the 15th Century when the High Street was part of the route between London and the Midlands.

As the village grew to cater for more travellers more coaching inns appeared, and in Victorian times there were 12 inns along the High Street and Church Street.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, bodgers worked in the beech woods to produce components for High Wycombe's renowned furniture industry.

In 1892 the railway arrived. This changed the whole area and economy as Great Missenden grew to accommodate commuters.

The children's author Roald Dahl lived in the village between 1954 and 1990, and wrote all his books for children in the Writing Hut in his garden.



Photo from the Buckinghamshire County Museum collection

The village of Great Missenden lies in the heart of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, surrounded by rolling hills, beech woodlands and packed with historic character.

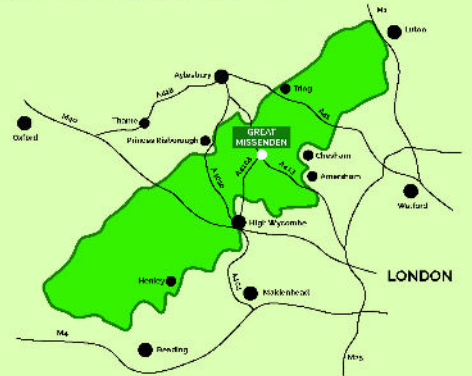
### Where we are in the Chilterns

The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty covers 660 square miles across the counties of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

Great Missenden is in the county of Buckinghamshire, nestled right in the heart of the Chilterns, in the valley of the River Misbourne and between the towns of Amersham and Wendover.

The village is surrounded by rolling hills and beautiful woodland, such as the ancient Angling Spring Wood, and the Chiltern beech woods planted in the nineteenth century for the chairmaking industry in nearby High Wycombe.

The River Misbourne rises in the outskirts of Great Missenden, flows parallel with the High Street through a series of culverts, and passes through Old Amersham, the Chalfonts and Denham, where it confluences with the River Colne.



### Roald Dahl Country

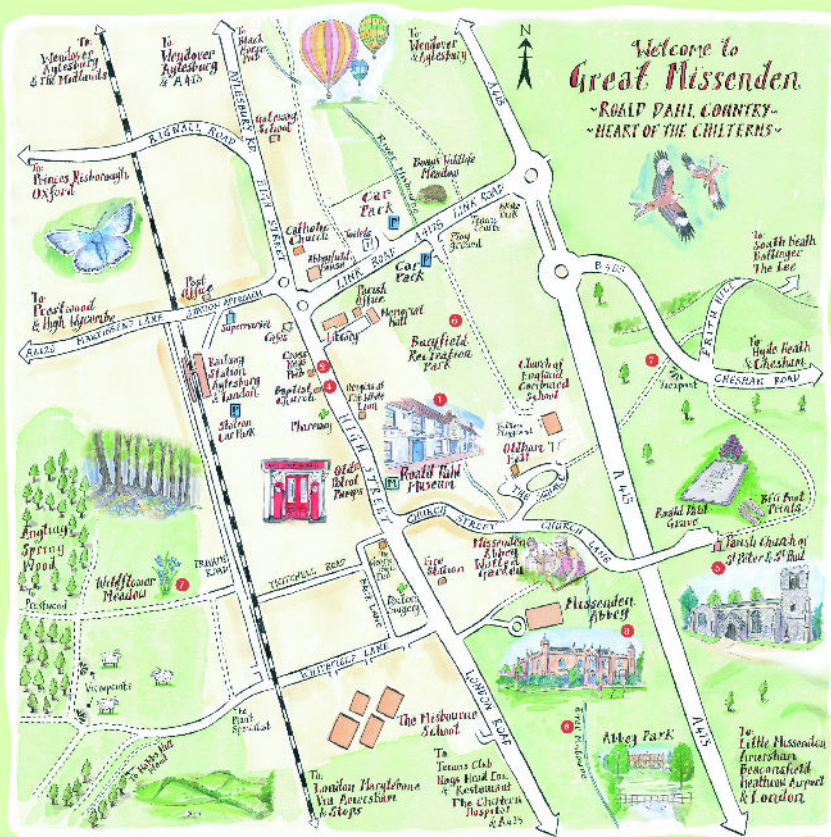
Roald Dahl lived in Great Missenden for the last 36 years of his life. The village is now home to the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre, which houses his archive. The interior of Dahl's Writing Hut - in which he wrote his best-loved children's books - is displayed at the Museum, preserved exactly as he left it.

Dahl took inspiration for his stories from the local area. Along the High Street you might spot the petrol pumps from *Danny the Champion of the World*, the house that inspired Sophie's 'norphango' in *The BFG*, and the library that *Matilda* would visit while her mum went off to play bingo in nearby Aylesbury.

Angling Spring Wood, where Dahl would walk his dogs, is said to be the home of *Fantastic Mr Fox* and the tiny, magical creatures from *Billy and the Minpins*.

### Make the most of your visit

- 1 Visit the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre, home of Roald Dahl's archive.
- 2 Stroll down the historic High Street and Church Street, packed with diverse and listed buildings.
- 3 Visit Missenden Abbey and The Walled Garden.
- 4 Browse the independent and specialist shops.
- 5 Visit the church of St. Peter and St. Paul and look for Roald Dahl's grave.
- 6 Enjoy the Buryfield, with its playgrounds, skatepark and tennis courts.
- 7 Take one of the marked footpaths to the surrounding hills and beech woods and enjoy the views.
- 8 Seek out the River Misbourne when it's flowing, an important chalk stream.



Bluebells in Angling Spring Wood, which bloom from late April into early May.

Find out more  
at [lrbma.co.uk](http://lrbma.co.uk) | visit [chilterns.co.uk](http://chilterns.co.uk)  
[chilternsociety.org.uk](http://chilternsociety.org.uk) | [sustrans.org.uk](http://sustrans.org.uk)