

# The Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre

81-83 High Street, Great Missenden, Bucks, HP16 0AL



## PRESS RELEASE

The Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre opened to great acclaim in June 2005 and to date has welcomed over 200,000 visitors through its chocolate doors.

From the shadowy figure of the BFG (Big Friendly Giant) visible on the High Street wall outside, to the crocodile cunningly disguised as a bench, the whole building takes Dahl's much-loved characters and stories as its theme. Working with HawkinsBrown Architects, gallery designers Bremner & Orr succeeded in transforming an old coaching inn and yard into a series of galleries that immerse visitors, especially young people, in the subversive world of Roald Dahl, with the intention of sparking imaginations and enthusiasm for word play, stories and creative writing.

The Boy and Solo galleries tell the story of Dahl's life and work through film, objects and lively interactive displays. Roald Dahl (who was a resident of Great Missenden for 36 years until his death in 1990) was determined that all his papers - manuscripts, photographs, his 'Ideas Book', correspondence (including his earliest letters home to his mother from boarding school) - should stay together. The Museum facilitates unprecedented access to this priceless material via touch-screen monitors in the galleries and through the on-line archive on the Museum's website.

The Story Centre gallery houses a replica of Dahl's famous Writing Hut including the author's chair (which visitors may sit in) and his table, complete with some of his prized possessions. The Hut stands in an orchard of giant Quentin Blake illustrations, where interactive games and bookcases can be discovered amongst the trees. Some of the most popular activities include making your own stop-frame animation film and recording your dreams in a dream bottle. The Story Centre also features audio and visual displays focusing on other leading contemporary authors such as Benjamin Zephaniah, Philip Pullman, J K Rowling and Jacqueline Wilson.

In 2008 the Museum won the Enjoy England Gold Award for Best UK Small Visitor Attraction.

The Museum offers tailor-made school visit sessions and a packed programme of family events and activities for children and families. It is open for school and private visits from Tuesday to Sunday and on Bank Holiday Mondays. It is an invaluable educational resource, but also a great family day out and, with a shop and café on site, a stimulating way to spend some time in the fantabulous world of Roald Dahl.

Admission: adults £6; children 5 to 18 £4 (under 5s free); concession £4; family ticket £19.00. Annual passes available.

**For further information and images please contact Isabelle Reynolds at the Museum on 01494 892192, [isabelle@roalddahlmuseum.org](mailto:isabelle@roalddahlmuseum.org) or visit the website [www.roalddahlmuseum.org](http://www.roalddahlmuseum.org)**

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