

## Welcome to Great Missenden

Great Missenden was home to Roald Dahl for 36 years. In his garden writing hut at Gipsy House he wrote all of his well-loved children's books and many of his adult short stories. Lots of them are based in and around the village.

Lying in the valley of the Misbourne River, the village is often described as a 'Gateway to the Chilterns'.

Roald Dahl bought a house here in 1954 with his first wife, the Hollywood actress Patricia Neal.

Felicity Dahl, Roald's widow, still lives in Gipsy House, the family home. Although it is a private house, the gardens are opened to the public five times a year. For dates of garden openings, visit the Fundraising and Events section of the Roald Dahl Foundation website [www.roalddahlfoundation.org](http://www.roalddahlfoundation.org)



Great Missenden High Street, circa 1950

This picture shows how the High Street would have looked when Roald Dahl moved here.

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### Museum opening hours

For information about Museum opening hours and ticket prices, telephone 01494 892192 or go to our website [www.roalddahlmuseum.org](http://www.roalddahlmuseum.org)

### Five things you didn't know you didn't know about Roald Dahl...

- Roald Dahl enjoyed grapefruit and grape-nuts for breakfast.
- Roald Dahl always wanted to write a ghost story but never managed it. Instead he told spooky stories to his children under the railway bridge in Whitefield Lane at night.
- Roald Dahl loved chocolate but didn't like chocolate cake.
- Roald Dahl often took his children out to follow the Great Missenden fire engine.
- Roald Dahl used to joke that there were wolves in his writing hut to stop his children peeking in there.

For further information about Roald Dahl, visit the official Roald Dahl website [www.roalddahl.com](http://www.roalddahl.com)

The Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre  
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\* Cover picture: This photograph, circa 1990, shows Roald Dahl and his dog Chopper outside the butcher's shop that used to be at 80 High Street.

THE ROALD DAHL  
MUSEUM AND  
STORY CENTRE



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## Roald Dahl's Village Trail

Registered charity number 1085853

**1 The Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre,** is a Grade II listed building. Before it was a Museum, local residents remember the site as being a bank, a hairdresser's, a dance hall and a public inn. The photograph below shows the building as the Buckinghamshire Arms in 1920. Rumour has it that Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli stayed here during his time in office.



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**81-83 High Street in 1920 and in June 2005.**

**2 Great Missenden Library,** built in 1970, was visited by Matilda while her mum went off to Aylesbury to play bingo.



**The library at the junction of High Street and Link Road.**

**3 Great Missenden Station** was built in 1892. Roald Dahl wrote a leaflet telling children how they could stay safe on and around railways. **Roald Dahl's Guide to Railway Safety** was illustrated by Quentin Blake and was given to school children in 1991, not long after Roald Dahl died.

**4 The Post Office** received hundreds of sacks of mail every year from Roald Dahl's fans all around the world when the great author was alive. The postman would deliver up to 4,000 letters a week to his house and even now they continue to arrive, but by e-mail as well.

*'Dear children, far across the sea,  
How good of you to write to me.  
I love to read the things you say  
When you are miles and miles away.  
Young people, and I think I'm right,  
Are nicer when they're out of sight.'*

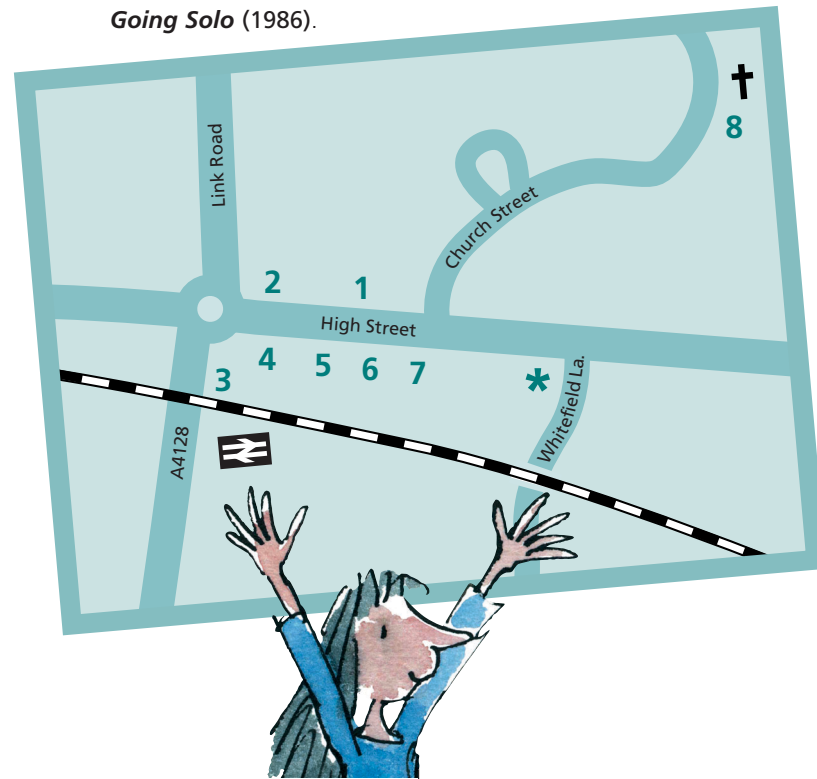
**Poem to school children (1986)**

**5 The BP pumps,** at 64 High Street, inspired the description of the garage in **Danny the Champion of the World.**

*'It was a very small filling-station on a small country road, surrounded by fields and woody hills.'*

**Danny the Champion of the World (1975)**

Roald Dahl worked for Shell Oil after he left school. You can read about his adventures at this time in **Going Solo (1986).**



**6 The timber-framed building** at Crown House, 70 High Street, was Roald Dahl's inspiration for Sophie's 'norphanage' in **The BFG.** It is a private house – so please do not disturb the residents.

*'From across the street, Sophie watched and held her breath...'*

**The BFG (1982)**

**7 80 High Street** used to be a butcher's where Roald Dahl liked to shop. The photo on the front cover shows him and his beloved dog Chopper outside it, in 1990.

Roald and Felicity Dahl wrote about Great Missenden and their love of food in **Roald Dahl's Cookbook (1991).**

**8** There is evidence that there was a church on the site of the parish church of **St Peter and St Paul** as early as 1133. When Roald Dahl died in November 1990 he was buried here.



**Roald Dahl's gravestone. Follow the BFG's footprints from the commemorative bench to find it.**

\* At the top of **Whitefield Lane** is Hobbs Hill Wood. The lovely beech trees which grow there were used in the world-famous furniture-making industry which thrived in nearby High Wycombe. Roald Dahl used to love taking his children to the woods and telling them stories. These included the tale which later became known as **The Minpins.**

*'Beware! Beware! The Forest of Sin!  
None come out, but many go in!'*

**The Minpins (1991)**