

The Misbourne Valley is less than 1hr from Heathrow and London with excellent road and rail links and outstanding walking and cycling.

The 18-mile long River Misbourne is one of the world's rare chalk streams, providing a unique habitat for kingfishers, brown trout and water voles.

## GREAT MISSENDEN

Enter another world – not only one of beautiful Buckinghamshire countryside, but also the world of Roald Dahl's imagination.



GREAT MISSENDEN was home to this world-renowned children's writer from 1954 to 1990. His grave in ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL PARISH CHURCH overlooks the village he loved, and from which he drew inspiration for his books. The imposing church was built in the 1300s, mainly of flint, a local material found lying in the fields.



Enter the ROALD DAHL MUSEUM AND STORY CENTRE through the Wonka Gates, donated by Warner Brothers, and learn about this amazing author. (Open all year, Tuesday-Sunday). Pick up the 1hr circular walk to follow in Dahl's footsteps, taking in Angling Spring Wood, the inspiration for 'Fantastic Mr Fox'.

Character accommodation, independent cafés, specialist boutiques, pubs and restaurants make this a good stop for the night.

- **Satnav:** HP16 0AL • **Taxi:** greatmissendentaxi.co.uk
- **Parking:** Link Road Car Park HP16 9AE or Station Car Park
- **Public Transport:** Chiltern Railways from London Marylebone (45 mins from London) 2-for-1 rail offer on museum tickets

## LITTLE MISSENDEN

In Olde English, Missenden means 'valley where the marsh plants grow', harking back to the time the River Misbourne flowed untamed through the village.



This very pretty village grew up around ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, a place of pilgrimage for over 1,000 years; its interior dates to 973, and it has a classic Norman stone clock tower. The website chronicles the restoration of the nationally-important medieval wall paintings, discovered in 1931 and dating from the 12th to the 16th centuries, including a magnificent St. Christopher with Jesus. Open daily, this integral part of the community offers services, lectures, concerts, cream teas (Sundays, May-Sept), and is the main venue for the LITTLE MISSENDEN FESTIVAL.

Enjoy a short break, staying in character properties, sampling local food and drink and walking in stunning scenery. Check out [walkingbritain.co.uk](http://walkingbritain.co.uk) (select Buckinghamshire, South Bucks), [chilternsaonb.org](http://chilternsaonb.org), Chiltern Society and [MapMyWalk.com](http://MapMyWalk.com)

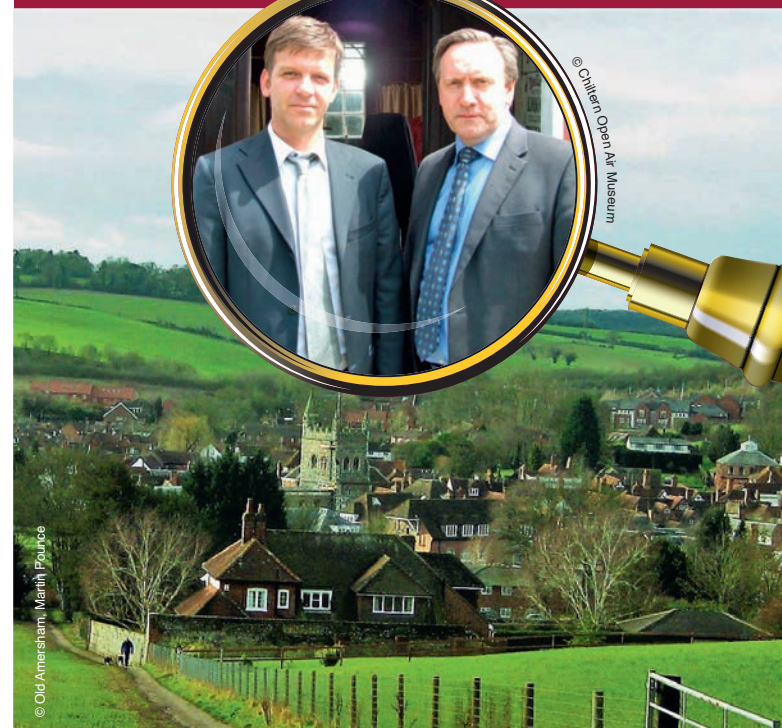
Other Midsomer trails in Buckinghamshire include 'Marlow & the Hambleden Valley' and 'Step into Midsomer' walks leaflet - download on [www.visitbuckinghamshire/midsomer](http://www.visitbuckinghamshire/midsomer)

- **Satnav:** HP7 0RA • **Taxi:** [kinghillcars.co.uk](http://kinghillcars.co.uk)
- **Parking:** Village Hall HP7 0RF
- **Public Transport:** Train (Amersham or Great Missenden)

For further copies of this leaflet e-mail [Midsomer@visitbuckinghamshire.org](mailto:Midsomer@visitbuckinghamshire.org). This is an independent publication, produced by the Chiltern Revitalisation groups supported by Chiltern District Council, for the economic development and sustainability of local businesses, and for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. The content and views expressed are solely those of the author and not necessarily shared by Bentley productions.

# MIDSOMER ON THE MISBOURNE

Chalfont St. Giles | Chalfont St. Peter  
Great Missenden | Little Missenden  
Old Amersham



Follow in the footsteps of DCI Barnaby  
**MIDSOMER MURDERS**  
**LOCATIONS TRAIL**  
In Buckinghamshire

[www.visitbuckinghamshire.org/midsomer](http://www.visitbuckinghamshire.org/midsomer)



# MIDSOMER MURDERS LOCATIONS ON THE MISBOURNE

CHALFONT ST. GILES  
CHALFONT ST. PETER  
GREAT MISSENDEN  
LITTLE MISSENDEN  
OLD AMERSHAM

The River Misbourne wends its way through quintessentially English, Buckinghamshire countryside like an episode of Midsomer Murders; flowing below ground in some places, it passes through rural landscapes and historic market towns and villages packed with pretty cottages, stone churches, traditional pubs and fictional murder!

## STOP 1

Our Midsomer Murders location trail begins in **GREAT MISSENDEN**, where you are in the good company of former residents, Prime Ministers Clement Attlee and Harold Wilson, and authors Robert Louis Stevenson and Roald Dahl. An old market town on the London to Buckingham coaching route, it has a distinctive architecture of merchant houses, historic shop fronts and traditional pubs.



We start at the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre. Looking from the street, the left-hand side of the 'flushbunkingly gloriumptious' café appeared as Shires Bank in 'Painted in Blood'. From here, turn into Church Street, and cross over the Misbourne, where the cottages on your left appeared in 'Not in my Backyard'. In this episode, planning, politics and

conservation collide, resulting in a swathe of deaths. It bears all the hallmarks of the series: illicit affairs, spying, burglary, vandalism, blackmail, greed, and some very creative murders! Walk further along Church Street to St. Peter and St. Paul Churchyard which appeared in 'Masterclass'; and is where Roald Dahl is buried.

## STOP 2

Featuring in thirteen episodes of the show, **LITTLE MISSENDEN** masqueraded as the village of Badger's Drift in the show's very first episode. Barnaby and Troy walk around the white-fenced village green to visit Mrs Rainbird who spies on villagers from her attic. Earning from blackmail, she and her son are later found hacked to death in their cottage.



In one direction on Highmore Cottages is St. John the Baptist Church - both internal and external shots of this Saxon church appeared in 'Echoes of the Dead'.

In the other direction on Highmore Cottages is The Red Lion Pub (1649) which you may recognise as The White Swan in 'Who Killed Cock Robin', The Monk's Retreat in 'Talking to the Dead' and The Signalmen in 'Echoes of the Dead'. Next door, the pub's meeting room was transformed into Bernard's hardware shop, where peeping tom, Bernard Flack, looks very uneasy at Barnaby's arrival. This pretty building also appeared as a shop in 'The Village that Rose from the Dead'. Behind the pub, the Misbourne itself appears in 'Who Killed Cock Robin' where the duck house is visible in a scene of Joyce feeding the ducks after being abandoned by Tom (again!).

## STOP 3

On to arguably one of the prettiest market towns in England. Stepping into **OLD AMERSHAM** feels like stepping back in time, whilst giving out an on-trend vibe of entrepreneurial eating, drinking and shopping establishments.



The architecture in Old Amersham is pure Midsomer: flint and brick cottages, black beams on white render, chimney pots on every roof! No wonder it was chosen for the legendary first episode 'The Killings at Badger's Drift' and the 100th episode 'The Killings of Copenhagen', when 6.5million UK viewers sat down to watch leading actors from Borgen and The Killing appear alongside DCI John Barnaby and DS Charlie Nelson.



Begin with a couple of hours at Amersham Museum to get a feel for the town's rich history. Scenes for 'Death of a Hollow Man', 'Blue Herrings', 'Sauce for the Goose' and 'Who Killed Cock Robin' were filmed along High Street, Church Street and School Lane. Flint Barn Court (Amersham Town Council) on Church Street is seen in 'Dead Man's 11', and as Rainbird Funeral Directors in 'Killings at Badger's Drift'.

Stop awhile at the stunning Memorial Gardens to reflect and recharge. Head out on the A355 or the A417 to our next stop, or take in one of the following detours en route: Amersham Hospital which doubled as Causton Hospital in 'A Sacred Trust' and stunning Tudor Mansion Chenies Manor which has appeared in five episodes of the show.

## STOP 4

**CHALFONT ST. GILES** is a small village with a big history, a filming location for the 1971 film Dad's Army and home to the only remaining mill on the Misbourne.

This village of pretty cottages, pubs, manor houses and a church, village green and a duck pond has not been filmed for the show but is as typical Midsomer as it gets!

Three cannonballs fired by Parliamentarians in the English Civil War were found embedded in St. Giles Parish Church!



Chalfont St. Giles's agricultural heritage lives on in its artisan producers - perfect for a picnic with deli meats, pies and cheeses from various shops or, for a cooked meal, including fish and chips, from one of the restaurants, delis or pubs.

Two miles away is Jordans village. Purpose-built in 1919, today's village shop and cafe are housed in the original shop from 1922. The village gained its name from Old Jordans Quaker Farm, and the burial ground in front of the Friends Meeting House (1688) bears the simple headstone of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, USA.

## STOP 5

Nestled on the southern slopes of the Chiltern Hills, **CHALFONT ST. PETER** has distinctive and varied architecture, with individual quirky buildings of all ages.

The Chiltern Open Air Museum, in the north of the parish, is not to be missed - a wonder of 37 rescued buildings from the Chilterns, including a toll house, working Victorian farm and WWII Nissen Hut. Brought to life with costumed characters and cooking pots over fire.



The Tin Chapel became the Midsomer Temperance League's Chapel in 'Night of the Stag' when Midsomer Abbas men, bearing stag horns, go in search of the ladies. The Museum also featured in Call the Midwife, Grantchester and Downton Abbey, when Lady Edith helps out on a farm during the war. Don your walking shoes and spend a day going back in time.



Before entering Chalfont St. Peter, check out Horn Hill Village Hall which becomes the Brezezinski Dance School in 'The Point of Balance' and The Chalfont Motor Company is Wells Motor Company in 'Secrets and Spies'. Espionage and cricket collide, and Barnaby resigns in a fit of pique when he's told not to get involved after ex-spy Geoffrey Larkin's body is found.

In 'Death of a Hollow Man', Tom Barnaby (John Nettles) is painting stage scenery in preparation for his wife's (Jane Wymark) appearance in Causton Amateur Dramatics' production of Amadeus. Finding the body of Agnes Gray, coupled with a live stage 'self-murder' of her cousin Esslyn Carmichael, leave Barnaby and Troy (Daniel Casey) looking for the connection.



Follow their trail by starting at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Austenwood, where they talk to Peggy Marshall in the Chantry Chapel to find out if Agnes had anything on her mind before she died. Pass Gold Hill Common and Market Place to Church Lane where they interview Mr Green in his snack van. Typically, Barnaby sits reading a newspaper and

enjoying a bacon sandwich from the snack van in the car, sending Troy off with the key found around Agnes neck, to see which garage it fits.



For more information on each village, pop into the village libraries or Old Amersham Museum.



To see it all, stay a few days in a real piece of English history - a cottage with inglenook fireplace, a barn on a farm, a 16th century coaching inn, the oldest house in the village or in a filming location itself! 🛏



Old Amersham

## OLD AMERSHAM

OLD AMERSHAM is a beautifully maintained pre-Victorian market town with stunning architecture and a vibrant shopping and dining culture. Stay in The KING'S ARMS, a traditional black and white 15th century coaching inn and a Midsomer



Murders' filming location. Also a location for Miss Marple, and Four Weddings and a Funeral (external shots). Internal shots were at The Crown nearby, home to Atul Kochhar's, 2 AA rosette, Hawkyns Restaurant. Exceptional food also at The Artichoke, Michelin star restaurant, located in a Grade 2 listed property in Market Square.

AMERSHAM MUSEUM sits within a restored medieval hall house and herb garden - explore Tudor life in 1580, and who owned the town in 1772. Fully accessible and offering guided walks of the town (check opening times).

The MEMORIAL GARDENS are a place like no other. Discover the Peace Garden and why Amersham has won Britain in Bloom's GOLD AWARD, five years running.



From Amersham-on-the Hill 🚶 is a stunning 20min woodland and field walk or short taxi ride.

- **Satnav:** HP7 ODP • **Taxi:** gilbertsofchesham.com
- **Parking:** Amersham Old Town Car Park (HP7 OHL)
- **Public Transport:** London Underground (Metropolitan Line) and Chiltern Railways, starting at Marylebone

## CHALFONT ST. GILES



CHALFONT ST. GILES is a pretty village which has grown up around a village green and duck pond, fed by the Misbourne River.

Famous poet, John Milton moved here from London's Plague in 1665, and sold the rights to 'Paradise Lost' for £5. MILTON'S COTTAGE Trust received £20 from Queen Victoria for its purchase in 1887 (check opening times). A 1.5hr circular walk takes you from Milton's Cottage via OAKLAND PARK GOLF COURSE, to the QUAKER MEETING HOUSE in Jordans, and back via Dibden Hill. Take a short walk to COOK MONUMENT on the Vache Estate. Built by Sir Hugh Palliser, patron of Captain Cook who discovered and charted New Zealand and the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

Enjoy TRADITIONAL COUNTRY EVENTS in the village – including the Literary Festival, May Day dancing, the country show, fireworks in November and Remembrance Sunday.

- **Satnav:** HP8 4QF • **Taxi:** chalfonttaxis.co.uk
- **Parking:** Blizzards Yard Car Park (HP8 4QA)
- **Public Transport:** Train (Amersham)

## CHALFONT ST. PETER

Appearing in the Domesday Book of 1086, CHALFONT ST PETER is a bustling village of timber-clad independent shops, surrounded by green and pleasant COMMONS. In June the village is decked with flags on FEAST DAY (Feast of St. Peter since 1229), with costumed characters, classic cars, dancing and music, culminating in the EVENING CONCERT on Gold Hill Common. Immerse yourself in the fun of community spirit.



Photo © Barbara Quiley

In the 1600s Judge Jeffreys (the 'hanging judge') presided over his court at The Greyhound pub. Sit beside the Misbourne stream, supping a pint, much as Sir Winston Churchill did during his lifetime.



Pick up a leaflet from the library and spend 2-3 hours being entertained by the stories shown through the plaques on the CELFUNDE INHERITANCE self-guided Heritage Walk. It will take you round historic streets, past independent shops and cafés, along riverside walks, and onto the ancient common land. A great place to stay, with coaching inns, historic houses and other unique accommodation.

- **Satnav:** SL9 9RS • **Taxi:** chalfonttaxis.co.uk
- **Parking:** Church Lane Car Park (SL9 9RS)
- **Public Transport:** Train (Gerrards Cross), London Underground (Little Chalfont) then bus - moovitapp.com