THAME TRAIL INSIDE

MIDSOMER GUIDED TOURS AVAILABLE

THAME
OXFORDSHIRE

MIDSOMER MURDERS TRAIL
Follow filming locations in and around the historic market town of Thame

visitmidsomer.com
thametowncouncil.gov.uk
MIDSOMER WALKING TRAIL OF THAME TOWN CENTRE

Midsomer Murders is based on the novels of Caroline Graham. The original pilot programme, *The Kissing of Bangers Drift*, aired on 23rd March 1997 and the four episodes of the first full series in 1998. Written in Blood, Death of a Hollow Man, Foil Thinly Into Death and Death in Disguise, were based on her books. Elizabeth Spriggs was a leading actor in the first episode and is buried in St Mary’s Churchyard, Thame.

1. **THE MUSEUM**

   The Museum was used for the interior scenes at Causton Museum in Secrets and Spies. An object, an animal’s skull, is suspected as the murder weapon (not one of the museum’s exhibits). Causton Museum is broken into and is investigated by DCI Jones with help from the Curator, Amanda Watton. Thame Museum was originally built in 1864 as the County Court House, it was converted into a magistrates’ court in 1984 and finally became the town’s museum in 2005.

   Leave the Museum, turn left, cross Bell Lane and walk along the High Street.

2. **WILLS & TRUSTS, 91-92 HIGH STREET**

   The offices of Wills & Trusts (next to the Book House) were used as a solicitor’s offices in *The Oboing Murders*.

3. **THAME TOWN HALL**

   As you walk along the High Street, you will see a large red brick building facing you - Thame Town Hall. In *Do You Remember?* it appears in the Christmas scene, with Joyce Barnaby singing carols round the Christmas tree outside Thame Town Hall. The Town Hall was again used as Causton Town Hall in *Shot at Dawn* and it appears in the Christmas scene, with Joyce Barnaby singing carols round the Christmas tree outside Causton Town Hall. The Town Hall was also used as Causton Town Hall in *Shot at Dawn* and as Causton Arts Centre in *The Maid in Splendour*. Across from the Town Hall, Connells Estate Agents appears as Causton Bookies in a sub-plot of the same episode.

   There has been a building on the site of the Town Hall since 1599. The current building was built in 1887, using local brick, to celebrate Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee.

   Looking to the left you will see ...

4. **TIM RUSSELL & COMPANY**

   In *The House in the Woods* Tim Russ & Company, Estate Agents, become Harriet Davis’ Estate Agency, Harriet Davis is involved in a plot to acquire a derelict building in the woods. However, it doesn’t end well for Harriet.

   The partly pedestrianised street to the left of the Town Hall is Buttermarket...

5. **BUTTERMARKET**

   This pedestrian street appears in many episodes. In the opening of *Vixen’s Run*, it is used for the 1953 Coronation. A woman is seen riding a horse along the road. She is on her way to meet a lover. In *Picture of Innocence* Buttermarket becomes a street market where Barnaby is kissed by a complete stranger – this incident is photographed, and the picture is used as part of the plot line. In *Midsomer Life*, a floppy barnyard from the Morecroft Hotel (the Spread Eagle) is seen staggering along Buttermarket. In *Death in Disguise*, Jones and Barnaby take coffee with Hattie Trent at the end of Purse Lane.

6. **THE COFFEE HOUSE**

   In *Picture of Innocence*, Barnaby is sitting in the Coffee House, looking at the picture of him kissing a woman. He notices familiarity in the background – the sign on the health food shop called Now and Zen – actually the site entrance to what is now White Stuff.

7. **PRETTY LIKE PICTURES**

   At the top of Buttermarket, Pretty Like Pictures appears in *Picture of Innocence* as Guylip, the digital photography shop and major rival to Madrigal’s camera shop. Jones talks to the owner about photographs of a glamour model.

8. **KEW BOOKBINDING**

   Kew Bookbinding’s premises feature as a printing shop in *The Ghost of Causton*. In *Things That Go Bump in the Night*, it is dressed for the 1953 Coronation.

9. **MONTESON SQUARE**

   Monteson Square features in a panoramic shot during the title sequence at the start of *Picture of Innocence*, ending outside Madrigal’s camera shop – now Rumsey’s Chocolaterie.

10. **THE SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL**

    The Spread Eagle became the Morecroft Hotel in *Midsomer Life*. It also featured in *Vixen’s Run*, being used for the interior shots of the Swan Hotel, where Lucinda and Simon were staying.

Now walk back to Monteson Square and Market House.

11. **RUMSEY’S CHOCOLATERIE**

    This was the Cover to Cover Bookshop in *Vixen’s Run*. It was managed by Jenny, thought erroneously to be the love child of Mr Freddy Butler (deceased). Before he passed away, he had set her up in *Cover to Cover*, now the Oxbum Bookshop.

12. **THAME MUSEUM**

    Thame Museum is based on the novels of Caroline Graham. The original pilot programme, *The Kissing of Bangers Drift*, aired on 23rd March 1997 and the four episodes of the first full series in 1998. Written in Blood, Death of a Hollow Man, Foil Thinly Into Death and Death in Disguise, were based on her books. Elizabeth Spriggs was a leading actor in the first episode and is buried in St Mary’s Churchyard, Thame.

    There have now been well over 100 episodes. John Nettles played DCI Barnaby for the first 81 episodes, stepping down in 2011 at the end of series 13. Neil Dudgeon has played Barnaby ever since. Thame has featured in 16 episodes, in some briefly but in others, such as *Picture of Innocence* and *Vixen’s Run*, it features heavily. Episode 1, series 20, screened in 2019, features the gatehouse of Thame’s Prebendal and nearby cricket ground.

    The walking trail takes just over an hour and features all the locations used in the town centre. The suggested starting point is Thame Museum.
MIDSOMER LOCATIONS NEAR THAME

Soak up the atmosphere of the English rural villages that make up ‘Midsomer County’, by taking a guided tour or following Midsomer driving trails. These are some of the delightful and historic villages that have featured in episodes of Midsomer Murders. For more information go to visitmidsomer.com, thametowncouncil.gov.uk, visitbuckinghamshire.org or experienceoxfordshire.org

Adwell, Oxfordshire
St Mary’s Church – Midsomer Parva church, The Swad of Guiltoume, Death and the Divas

Aston Rowant, Oxfordshire
Village houses - The House in the Woods; A Sacred Trust (the Virtue Arms, a village store)

Beckley, Oxfordshire
The main street – Electric Vendetta

Bledlow, Buckinghamshire
The Lions of Bledlow pub, Holy Trinity Church, houses (all in Church End)

The Klings at Badgers Drift, Death’s Shadow, Dead Man’s 11, Blue Herings, Dark Autumn, A Worm in the Bud, Birds of Prey, King’s Crystal, A Rare Bird

Brill, Buckinghamshire
All Saints Church - Four Funerals and a Wedding

The Painter pub - the John Knox pub, Four Funerals and a Wedding

In village - incident room, Four Funerals and a Wedding

Bill Windmill - A Tale of Two Hamlets

Chersley, Buckinghamshire
The Bell Inn - the Woodward pub, Country Matters

Chersley Post Office & Stores - Elverton village store, Country Matters

Chinnor, Oxfordshire
Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway Station - Hald Lane Junction, Death in a Chocolate Box

Village houses - Trevor Minchin’s house, Woodley & Woodley tailors, The Made To Measure Murders

Christmas Common, Buckinghamshire
Gated house – The Killings at Badgers Drift and Ring Out Your Dead

Crowell, Oxfordshire
The Shepherd’s Cloak pub - the Apple Tree pub, The Night of the Stag

Cuddington, Buckinghamshire
Cuddington Village Stores - Death of a Stranger, Not In My Backyard, Talking to the Dead (Panorama shops)

The Crown pub - Death in Disguise

Bernard Hall (Village Hall) - incident unit, Death of a Stranger; band’s headquarters, Death and Dreams; Spanish evening, Bad Tidings; Cyris’s talk, Talking to the Dead

St Nicholas Church - graves of Tom Hicks, Douglas Hammond, Shot at Dawn, Village houses - birds of prey, Bad Tidings, Death and Dreams, Talking to the Dead (the vicarage)

Dinton, Buckinghamshire
The village green - Midsomer Barton’s Oak Apple Day, Dead Letters; Who Killed Cock Robin? (as well)

The Seven Stars pub - Heart of Oaks pub exterior, Dead Letters

Church of SS Peter and Paul - wedding scenes, A Tale of Two Hamlets, Second Sight

The High Street - Tainted Fruit, The House in the Woods, Blood Wedding, Blood on the Saddle

The Eight Bells pub - A Tale of Two Hamlets, Blood on the Saddle (as the Floyer Arms), The Oblong Murders

The Library, St Mary’s Church - Blood Wedding, Dead Letters (church only)

Great Hasley, Buckinghamshire
St Peter’s Church - wedding scenes, Midsomer Rhapsody; postman’s funeral, Dark Autumn

Great Hasley Village Hall - an antique shop, Dark Autumn; Midsomer Parva village hall, Blood Wedding; recital location, The Silent Land; photographic exhibition, Picture of Innocence; book-signing session, The Fisher King; Not In My Backyard

The Hasley Plough pub - Barnaby and Troy play Aunt Sally, Dark Autumn; March Magna library, The Silent Land

Midsomer Life
Village houses - Picture of Innocence, The Silent Land, Days of Maple, Hidden Depths, Midsomer Rhapsody

Great Milton, Oxfordshire
The Bull Pub - the Blacksmith Arms, The Old Stores, The Christmas Haunting

Haddenham, Buckinghamshire
St Mary’s Church and pond - Birds of Prey, Judgement Day, A Talent for Life

Village properties - Vixen’s Run, Orchis Falls, Midsomer Life

Henton, Oxfordshire
A village house - Ford’s house in A Rare Bird

Lewknor, Oxfordshire
Lewknor Primary School - A Tale of Two Hamlets; The House in the Woods

Little Hasley, Oxfordshire
Village properties - Dark Autumn, Hidden Depths, Midsomer Rhapsody

Little Hasley Manor House - Melynn Stockcock’s house, Who Killed Cock Robin?

Little Milton, Oxfordshire
Morgan & Associates Estate Agents - Hidden Depths

Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire
Long Crendon Manor - Garden of Death, The King’s Crystal, Dark Autumn, A Rare Bird

The road outside the Manor - A Tale of Two Hamlets, Second Sight

The High Street - Tainted Fruit, The House in the Woods, Blood Wedding, Blood on the Saddle

The Eight Bells pub - A Tale of Two Hamlets, Blood on the Saddle (as the Floyer Arms), The Oblong Murders

The Library, St Mary’s Church - Blood Wedding, Dead Letters (church only)

Monks Risborough, Buckinghamshire
Local houses and the bells of the church – Ring Out Your Dead

Moreton, Thame, Oxfordshire
Chesnut Farm - the home of a victim, Death and Dreams

Nether Winchendon, Buckinghamshire
St Nicholas Church - Things That Go Bump in the Night

A nearby house - Death in Disguise

Nether Winchendon House - The Lodge of the Golden Windhorse, Death in Disguise; Lynton Parfett’s home, Talking to the Dead

Shabbington, Buckinghamshire
The Old Fisherman pub - A Talent for Life

Stanton St John, Oxfordshire
Village store - Electric Venderetz, A Worm in the Bud

Local cottages - A Worm in the Bud

Stoke Talmage, Oxfordshire
St Mary Magdalen Church - funeral scenes in Orchis Falls (Joyce and Tom are seen walking in the churchyard)

Sydenham, Oxfordshire
St Bartholomew’s Church - Midsomer Abbas church

The Crown pub - The Stag Inn, The Night of the Stag

Thame Park, Thame, Oxfordshire
Thame Park House - Tye House in Death’s Shadow

Thame Park grounds - hunt scenes in Death of a Stranger

Nott Hill private house, not open to the public

Towersey, Oxfordshire
Village houses - Adam Keyne’s house, Tainted Fruit; Connor Simpson’s house, Death in Chorus

Wainhill, Buckinghamshire
Wainhill Railway Crossing - Death in a Chocolate Box

Worminghall, Buckinghamshire
Worminghall Village Hall - Midsomer Mere School, Second Sight

Former Oakley Airfield - A Talent for Life
Thame is 14 miles east of Oxford, 10 miles south-west of Aylesbury and 47 miles from London. It is well connected to Birmingham and London by the M40 motorway and just an hour from Heathrow.

**ACCOMMODATION**

In the town centre, both the Spread Eagle Hotel and the Swan Hotel have been used as Midsomer filming locations. Near Thame there is a wide choice of hotels, inns, B&Bs and guest houses to choose from, including Midsomer locations such as Long Crendon Manor and The Pointer in Brill. For further information on where to stay, visit thametowncouncil.gov.uk, visitchilterns.co.uk, visitbuckinghamshire.org.

**EATING & DRINKING**

There are many excellent choices for eating and drinking in Thame, including a varied selection of pubs and restaurants. Why not try Midsomer locations such as Rumsey’s Chocolaterie, where you can sample delicious Barnaby Buns served with jam and cream, the Black Horse Pub & Brasserie, or the Coffee House on Buttermarket? Also on Buttermarket, The Deli at No 5 offers Midsomer-themed cheese and gin. Atalay’s Kebabs (Upper High Street) has been voted Best Kebab Van in Britain.

There are also plenty of great pubs and gastro-pubs nearby, including Midsomer locations such as The Haseley Plough at Great Haseley, The Old Fisherman in Shabbington, and the Eight Bells in Long Crendon.

**SHOPPING**

The town centre boasts a fantastic range of unique shops and delicatessens as well as high street names. Goods on offer range from beautiful handmade jewellery to local produce such as artisan breads and oils. More information on shopping in Thame can be found at thametowncouncil.gov.uk.
Why not join a tour led by one of our knowledgeable Midsomer tour guides? Tours for groups of up to 15, lasting up to 1¼ hours, run at 11am every Wednesday between April and October. The tours start from inside Thame Museum, 79 High Street, Thame, OX9 3AE.

Tickets cost £7.50 each and may be purchased online at ticketsource.co.uk/thamemidsomer. Tickets may also be purchased in person at Thame Museum (open Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday 10am - 4pm and Sunday 1pm - 4pm), or online on the Thame Museum website thamemuseum.org.

Alternatively, simply turn up on the day and pay the guide.

For more information visit thametowncouncil.gov.uk or visitmidsomer.com.

Part of the proceeds from Midsomer tours goes to charitable causes.

Grateful Thanks
We are grateful for the support of our sponsors and partners in producing this leaflet.

We are also grateful to Bentley Productions, producers of Midsomer Murders, for their kind assistance.

Designed by 📝FINE & DANDY