

PADDINGTON

IN READING TRAIL

Reading played a large part in the life of the creator of Paddington, Michael Bond, who grew up in Reading.

His experiences here shaped the books that have inspired generations. You can trace his steps on our short trail around Reading town centre and discover a new statue of his famous bear creation.



1 Reading Station

As a boy during WWII, Paddington author Michael Bond remembered seeing many child evacuees arriving at Reading Station with all their possessions in a little suitcase and a label round their necks with their address on, which inspired his depiction of Paddington Bear.



2 Town Hall Square

Michael Bond started his working life working for the BBC in Reading. He was working as an Engineer's Assistant on the roof of a building in Reading's Town Hall Square when a German bombing raid blew up the building on 10 February 1943. Sadly 41 people died, but Michael survived and got a bus home covered in dust from the explosion.

3 Reading Museum

Reading Museum tells the story of Reading and you can find out more about the WWII bomb that Michael Bond survived in the Story of Reading Gallery.



4 Paddington Statue

89 Broad Street, Reading, RG1 2AP

A new statue of Paddington sits on a bench in Broad Street outside Waterstones. It was created for the release of a new film, Paddington in Peru. Come and sit next to Paddington for a while.

