

SHIFNAL'S MISSING MILLIONS

A **treasure hunt trail** in Shifnal...



SHIFNAL DISCOVERY TRAIL

Visit clues and read eye-witness testimony
to the history of this fascinating town.

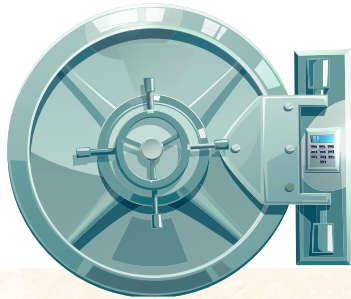
Can you solve a mystery from
long ago?



Calling budding Detectives in the Shifnal area

Shropshire Police have received information via the international criminal investigation body, commonly known as Intercrime, regarding a long-unsolved case of fraud. New evidence has been uncovered which could lead to the recovery of gold worth around £100,000,000 from a safe inside a bank vault in Toronto, Canada.

An anonymous informant has leaked to Intercrime a series of clues scattered around the historic town of Shifnal. When solved, these will reveal the key to unlock the safe. Can you help us track them down and solve this mystery from long ago?



Background to the case

Over 150 years ago, Shifnal was the scene of Victorian Britain's largest banking fraud. In 1855 The Shropshire Banking Company's branch manager, one **William Allen**, was found to have been stealing hundreds of thousands of pounds over the course of a decade. When police arrived to arrest him at the bank in Horse Fair (where Market Place today meets Park Street), Allen is said to have leapt over the bank counter and fled. He left the neighbourhood and went into hiding - perhaps back to his home town in Essex, or to family in London, and then possibly overseas. Some £159,000 of bank funds were never recovered. In total that would be worth over £16,000,000 today, but with clever investment the fortune could have grown to many times that sum.


Will you help us solve this puzzle, gain access to the mystery bank vault and discover if it holds the missing millions?

Your investigation starts here.



How to investigate


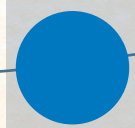


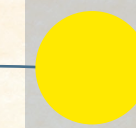
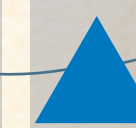
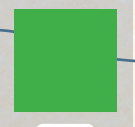



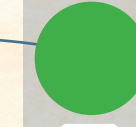

Look at the map on pages 6 and 7. You will see some roads and landmarks from Shifnal town centre, and **twelve clue locations** marked with **coloured shapes**. You can follow the route suggested by the dotted line, or make up your own as you explore the locations in any order you choose. At each 'shape' location, read the **matching clue (on pages 4 and 5)** and use your eyes and brains to work out the answer. Write it in the space below the clue. But wait...

Along the way you'll also come across five **key locations**  where ghostly eye-witnesses from Shifnal's history will provide you with further insights into the past and give you hints to help you make sense of some of the clues you've already found. These characters were ordinary Shifnal folk whose experiences, work and circumstances provide you with fascinating anecdotes about the town and the people who lived here in years gone by. **You can read more about them on pages 8 to 12 to help you solve the clues!**

Solving the puzzle

Gather the information from the **clues on pages 4 and 5** and **key witnesses on pages 8 to 12**.

Enter the single letters into the twelve matching coloured shapes below.

1.  <input type="text"/>	2.  <input type="text"/>	3.  <input type="text"/>	4.  <input type="text"/>	5.  <input type="text"/>	6.  <input type="text"/>
7.  <input type="text"/>	8.  <input type="text"/>	9.  <input type="text"/>	10.  <input type="text"/>	11.  <input type="text"/>	12.  <input type="text"/>

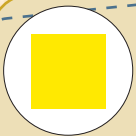


When you have all twelve letters, visit <https://dguik.xyz/ShifnalMillions> (or scan the QR code) and **use this string of characters (in the correct order) as the password**. Hopefully, you'll be correct and the combination code for the bank vault will be revealed.

Good luck, Detectives!

Your clues...

Follow the map on pages 6 and 7 to find where you have to go!



Look up and down for Horsehay here, and note the year of BSC.



You will now need to answer the KEY question to solve this clue! See the back cover.

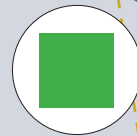
ANSWER



Touching or seeing the tactile guide to the Sensory Garden will help you solve this clue. Find the key on the right. Which type of plant is depicted by two raised square bumps? Note the first letter only.

ANSWER

Write this answer on page 3.

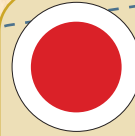


The year AD of St Mary's Presbytery is the one you need to note down. Find it above an entrance here.

ANSWER



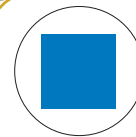
You will now need to answer the KEY question to solve this clue! See page 8.



Tick tock, read the clock! Which town were J.B. Joyce & Co from? One letter appears three times in this name. What is it?

ANSWER

Write this answer on page 3.



What name is made up of tiny pieces in the doorway of Number 5?

ANSWER



You will now need to answer the KEY question to solve this clue! See page 10.

Your next answer is clear to see, just prey that you can read backwards. Henry's wife Sarah Jane died in 1940, but on the 20th of which month? Note this word the correct way round.



ANSWER



You will now need to answer the KEY question to solve this clue! See page 9.



Stand near the stink pipe and study the nearby signs to do the following sum:

Telford + Burlington – Gorsey Bank = ? You only need the middle letter!

ANSWER

Write this answer on page 3.



Find information about Idsall House. In which year did it stop being a grammar school? Tot up the digits and make a note of your answer.

ANSWER



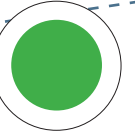
You will now need to answer the KEY question to solve this clue! See page 11.



What was the middle initial of Pointon, who gave the land for the Fire Station?

ANSWER

Write this answer on page 3.



Find the shiny round plaque mentioning Anna Turner. Which letter comes next in the following sequence? K-C-I-2-M-6-? The answer reads clockwise.

ANSWER

Write this answer on page 3.



Some ghostly writing on a wall will tell you what four-letter item was once sold at the Globe Stores. We only need the second letter.

ANSWER

Write this answer on page 3.



SCAN FOR HINTS





Are you stuck?

Find hints online at: <https://dguk.xyz/ShifnalHints>

Your map!



Key

-  Where to look for answers to the clues!
-  Suggested route
-  Key locations to help solve some clues
-  Stink pipe

Follow the suggested route, (or make your own!) to answer the clues on pages 4 and 5.

Did you know...

What on earth is a stink pipe?

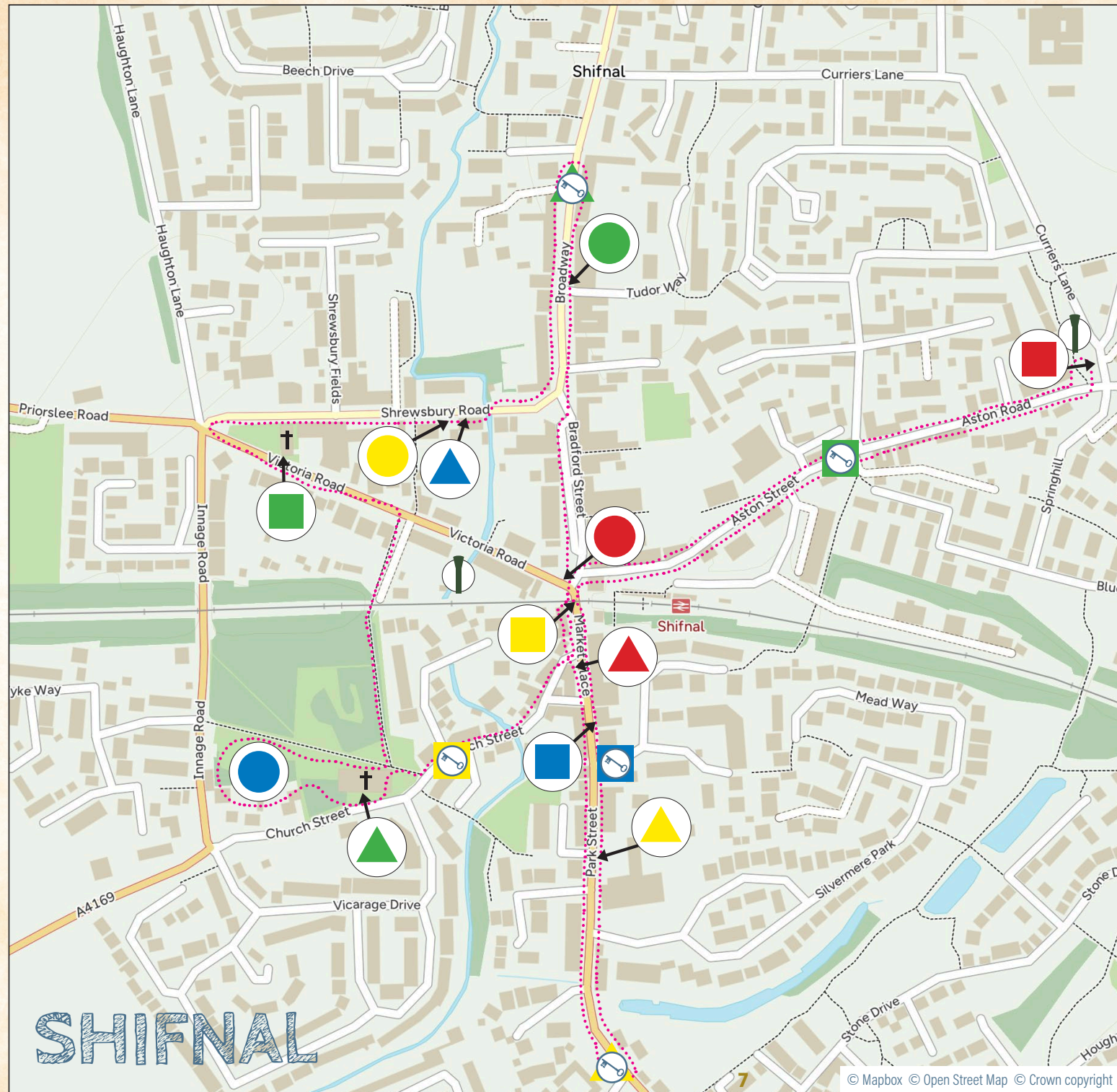
Have you ever spotted what looks like a Victorian lamppost without a lamp on top? It's likely that this is a 'stink pipe', an outlet from an underground sewer installed to help noxious gases escape into the atmosphere, way above the heads of passers-by and local residents.



There are **two** known stink pipes remaining in Shifnal. We've marked them on the map.

© Historic England

The story of the **Shifnal Bank Fraud** is a true episode from history. After the escape of William Allen, the Directors of the Bank clubbed together to rescue the bank by investing thousands of pounds of their own money and eventually the bank became profitable again. In 1874 the bank was taken over by Lloyd's. Strangely, after the deception had taken place, the Directors asked that Allen should not be pursued, and were accused of a cover-up. It seems that Allen had information on other matters which the Directors thought should not be made public - so he was a blackmailer as well as a thief.





Key Questions

...by witnesses from history

Mary Maddan

Mary Maddan was a member of one of several Irish families living on Aston Street in the late 1800s. In 1850 there had been riots between the local Shifnal townfolk and Irish navvies, who came to the area to seek work building the railway in the late 1840s.

Afterwards, the Irish community were made more welcome in the town with the provision of St Mary's Catholic Church and its attached school. However, newspaper reports from the 1870s show that Mary Maddan and her neighbours, who came from different counties in Ireland, were often in court for petty quarrels and squabbles. One report from 1873 read:

"The complainant, Bridget Murphy, said a child of hers and a little brother of the defendant, Mary Maddan, were quarrelling. The mother of Mary Maddan encouraged her daughter to strike her with a dishcloth and to throw some water over her. Mary alleged that Bridget had called her brother 'monkey face' [...] She becoming agitated and, having a bowl of water in hand, threw the water over her; fined 10s."



How many years are there between the green square clue and the year of WT on the houses just here on Aston Street? Divide this number by 2. Write your new total as a word. What is the second letter? That's the one you need for the green square shape."

Now write this answer on page 3.

John L. Stubbs

The Shrewsbury Chronicle published on Saturday 18th January 1884 reported on the funeral of **John L. Stubbs** of Shifnal. Most reports of funerals in the newspapers concerned local landowners or significant professional or trades people in the town. John Stubbs was neither of these. He was a Shifnal man, born about 1830. He lived in the High Street, near the Wheatsheaf Inn, with his wife Mary and their six children – Alfred, Thomas, Emma, Caroline, Anne and Thomas.

At the time of his marriage, John Stubbs' job was recorded as 'engineer' but in the baptismal records and the census he is classed as a labourer. What makes his internment so remarkable was his size.

The report states: *"He was one of the biggest men in Shropshire weighing 3¾ cwt (26.75 stone or 390.5kg). The coffin, of oak, measured 37 inches across the shoulders, and was 7ft long and 2ft deep and took the strength of 10 men to lift*

when the corpse was placed in it. Planks were used against the bedroom window and the coffin was lowered down on to a railway truck and thus wheeled into the churchyard. The ground was cut away at the head of the grave to form an incline so that the coffin could slide into its resting place. A large number of people witnessed the ceremony."

So unusual was this funeral that not only was it reported in the Shropshire newspapers, but as far away as New Zealand, where the story appeared in March 1884. Worldwide fame for a humble local man!

J. L. Stubbs was not the only notable large man born and bred in Shifnal. Samuel Lawrence, 1763 – 1825, blacksmith and famed bell ringer, weighed 32 stones, the second largest man in England at the time. He too is buried in Shifnal churchyard – at the foot of the steps leading to the bell tower.



I lived and died in a house near here. It took ten men to lift my coffin to the wheeled carriage waiting below!

Let me assist you with your green triangle clue. Stand near 49 Broadway. If you hunt around on both sides of the street here, you'll see some crossed keys on a house. How many keys are shown? Count this number into the letters of the month which is the answer to the green triangle clue. Write the letter you land on in the corresponding shape."

Now write this answer on page 3.

Joseph Hayward

Joseph Hayward was an *ostler* - a person who handled and hired out horses at a coaching inn. His residence in 1841 was in Horse Fair, which was the name given to the top part of Park Street, close to where the station is today. This row of buildings included two inns - the Unicorn and The Wonder, and Joseph probably managed all the horses stabled here. Shifnal was an important hub for road transport from East to West.

The fastest stagecoach was The Birmingham Wonder, which on 24th June 1835, left the Bull and Mouth in London at 6.30am and arrived at the Lion in Shrewsbury at 7.10pm - 158 miles in 12 hours 40 minutes, including stops to change the horses. Behind this prosperous business were the supporting trades which provided work for Shifnal families.

The 1841 census lists seven wheelwrights, seven saddlers, two postboys and three other ostlers. This was in addition to the landlords of the public houses - the Union, the Unicorn and the Eight Belles, the Jerningham Arms and the Star, plus all their staff down to the youngest maid.



“ In 1841 I was the ostler at The Wonder pub, which used to be right here on Horsefair, next to the bank where William Allen was the Manager. In 1872 the Shropshire Banking Company was purchased by a larger Birmingham-based bank whose name is rather like the answer to your blue square clue and is still known today. Write the second letter of this name in the corresponding shape.”

Now write this answer on page 3.

Mary Yates

A portrait of **Mary Yates** is displayed at Weston Park. It shows an inscription stating that this ordinary townswoman lived to the age of 127, dying in 1776. On a wall memorial tablet inside St Andrew's Church, is recorded the fact that Mary walked all the way to London as a teenager just after the Great Fire in 1666 and married her third husband Joseph Yates when she was over 90. Her great age at death is corroborated by an entry in the 'Annual Register of World Events' for 1776:

“Mary Yates, of Shiffnall, aged 128 years. She walked to London after the fire in 1666, married a third husband in her 92nd year and was hearty and strong at 120.”

Longevity is a theme in Shifnal. For many years there has been an inscription in the church stating, *“William Wakeley was baptized at Idsall, alias Shiffnall, May 1, 1591, and buried at Adbaston, Nov. 28, 1714; his age 124 and upwards; he lived in the reigns of eight kings and queens.”*



“ As a teenager, I walked to London from Shifnal to witness the aftermath of the Great Fire of London in 1666. Park Court, which used to be the workhouse on the road out of Shifnal to the south holds another answer. Note the TOTAL number of parishes in 1836 as mentioned here (*be careful!*). Subtract this number from the yellow triangle answer. If 1=A and 2=B etc, which letter matches your answer? Record it in the yellow triangle shape.”

Now write this answer on page 3.

There are a great many other characters from Shifnal's history with fascinating tales to tell. Find out more at the Local History Exhibition at the Old Fire Station. Visit www.shifnaltowncouncil.gov.uk/our-community/the-old-fire-station/ for details.

Maid with a Candle

An unnamed 'Maid with a Candle' is said to have been responsible for the fire which destroyed the town of Shifnal in 1591. The Shrewsbury Chronicle reported:

"... in the night the most part of Shyfnall was burned with fier by mischance of a mayde servant at night with a candle where flax did lue in the which the snoffe of the said candle fell in unknown to hir and so kindling in the night by an extreme tempest scattered the fyre abroade the towne in a wonderful sort that the sayd fier leapt to the churche, there being a pretty space from any house and burnyd the same and burned and melted the bells therein and left nothinge unburnyd saving the stoane worke thereof..."

As with all English settlements in those days, Shifnal's buildings were mostly of

timber construction with thatched roofs, so fire was a constant risk. Shifnal's great fire destroyed 32 houses and erased all evidence of the medieval settlement round the church. It's thought that this stood to the west of St Andrew's but an excavation undertaken in 1962 found no trace of it.

However, charred timbers beneath the 17th century timbered buildings in Shifnal's Market Square suggest that the fire may have spread further than the village of Idsall itself. It is said that Idsall House was the sole domestic building to survive the fire, and that after the devastation, Queen Elizabeth I herself allowed for an appeal for help to be sent out to the surrounding counties.



“ Look at the answer to your yellow square clue and add the four digits together. What is your total? Now, hunt near to my location to find information about the house that survived the fire I started, back in 1591. If 1=B and 21=T, which letter is represented by the total above? That's the letter you need to write inside the yellow square.”

Now write this answer on page 3.

This discovery trail was created by **Discovery Games Ltd** in association with **Shropshire Festivals** and **Shifnal Local History Group**. There is no fee to participate and no time limit to completion. Participants completing the trail will not receive a prize but correct answers entered on the website will be acknowledged. No personal data will be stored as a result of answers logged. Participants in this trail are responsible for their own safety and neither Discovery Games Ltd nor Shropshire Festivals will be held liable for any loss or injury however caused.