




-  - Red Trail start
-  - Yellow Trail start
-  - Point of Interest



Shenstone Heritage Trail Blue Map

32 St John the Baptist Church was designed by John Gibson, architect of London and built in 1852-53. The fine peal of bells has recently undergone major repairs and are rung by dedicated team of bell ringers. It has beautiful stained-glass windows and soaring neo-Gothic architecture. Admiral Parker's tomb is below the East window. Take some time to explore inside the church. The clock on the tower was gifted to the church by Samuel Hill in memory of his wife Elizabeth who died at the early age of 24 years. He was an MP and owner of Shenstone Park Hall in Park Lane – now demolished. The clock has recently been restored. Rev R.W. Essington was Vicar here from 1848-1895. He wrote the "The Annals of Shenstone" an important source of information about life in the village in the mid to late 1800s.



33 Follow the grassed path through the graveyard in front of the church, taking time to read some of the grave stones. On your left is the **Old Tower**. The ancient ruins of the old Saxon/Norman church were partially demolished in 1853 when the new church was built. Only the tower was saved. The pinnacles on the tower were removed later for safety reasons. Villagers are trying to get the tower restored with help from Historic England.



34 Follow the path past the Old Tower and descend the steep hill via the **Old Lane** which leads to Church Road. This was once the main route from the village to the old church. You can appreciate that this steep path would have been a considerable challenge for the coffin bearers. Thankfully there was another easier route behind houses on Eastridge Croft and St John's Hill, now long forgotten.

35 When you reach Church Road, across the way is the **Fox and Hounds Car Park**. South Staffordshire Hunt would meet here in the 1950s and for many years until very recently, Boxing Day celebrations for villagers and friends would include watching a Mummers' play and Morris dancing here. The building in the car park at the rear of the pub, now used as a garage, was once part of the village bakery. The site included a shop and other outbuildings which have since been demolished. Look for the stone block near the roadside which is a remnant of the bakery's doorstep.



36 Opposite the pub on the corner of Church Road and Main Street is **Lonsdale House**. It is thought that it was named after the Lonsdale family who once owned this 18th century corner house. (remodelled early 19th century). In 1939, Arthur Smith and his family lived here. He was a first Aid Warden for the village during WWII. It is Grade II listed and has recently (c2013) undergone an extensive renovation.

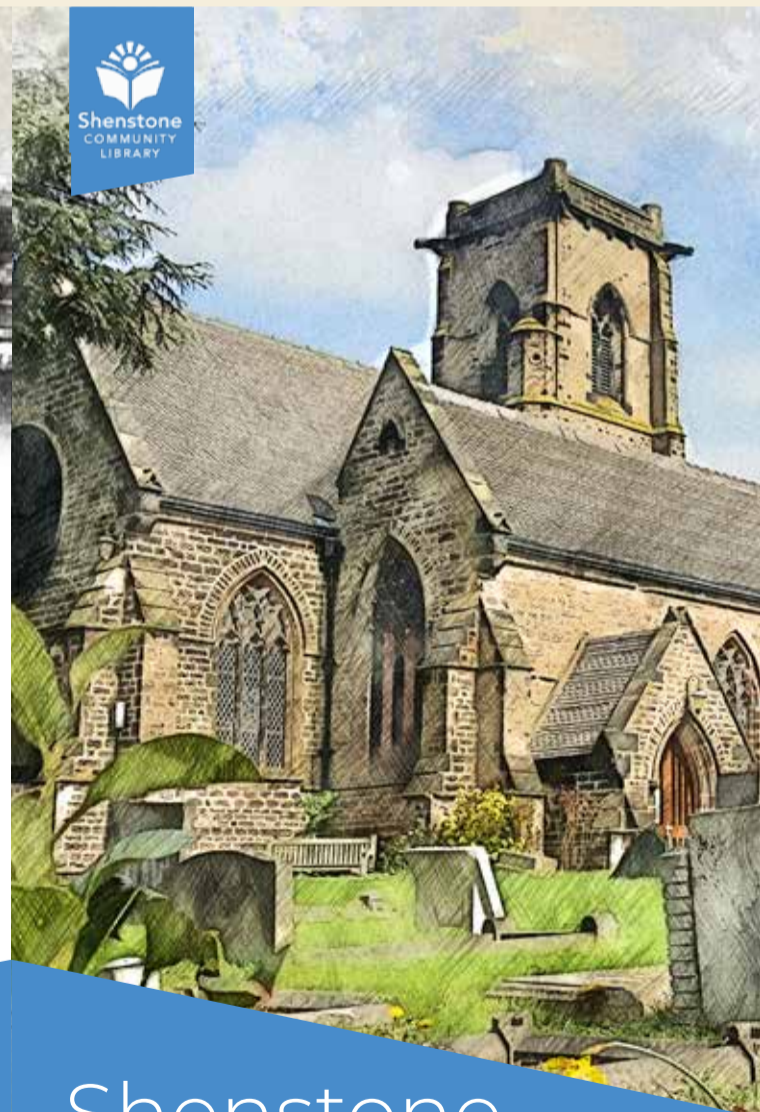
Return to the **Library** by turning right into Main Street and pop in for a coffee and cake to celebrate finishing the Shenstone Heritage Trail!



Located three miles south of Lichfield is the village of Seneste, or Shenstone, which lies around the hill on which the Church of St John the Baptist resides. The village's history can be traced back to the Roman and the Saxon days and was the only village in the area to be mentioned in the Domesday Book, ...There is one acre of meadow and a wood three-leagues long and one and a half wide. It is worth a hundred shillings'.

In 2002, the sculptor Jo Naden was commissioned to create something for Shenstone that captured its essence. She produced a shiny, smooth, solid, stainless-steel stone; reminiscent of the tightly curled pattern of the village and, suggestive of its name, the 'Shining Stone'. This sculpture lies in the Crane Brook Stream which flows through the Lammas Land on the eastern edge of the village. Several worthy folk have settled in Shenstone, among them were Admiral of the Fleet, Sir William Parker; and farmer, industrialist and agriculturist, Sir Richard Cooper.

With its long, fascinating history take our Heritage Trail and explore Shenstone, where there are many stories to be told, buildings to see and the past to imagine.



See the full trail and more details at www.shenstonecommunitylibrary.org/shenstone-heritage-trail

In Association With



Shenstone Heritage Trail

Take The Trail From Saxon Seneste To Shenstone

A guided walk around our village, exploring the history and stories around

Blue Route

Shenstone Heritage Trail: Blue Route (1 mile)



1 The Trail starts at the **Community Library** which was initially opened in 1977. It was built on the gardens of the cottages opposite. Their outdoor toilets also stood on this land – quite a trek in the middle of the night!



2 From the entrance to the Library turn left. In front of you is **Ivy House** a distinctive Grade II listed property, parts of which date from 1663. The old part contains a priest's hidey-hole and St John's Well in the garden is thought to have healing properties. It has been the residence of several very influential people. In the 1840s it was a school run by a Mrs Susan Dandridge and even boasted a French Governess for its 14 young lady pupils. William Tadman Foulks, a renowned architect who designed Eastbourne Town Hall, lived there in the 1890s and Dr Moses Taylor a well-known doctor was in residence from the turn of the 19th century. If you glance to the right, you can see part of the footpath to Birmingham Road, an old way which crossed the open farmland of Schoolfields; now post war housing.



3 Opposite the library are a row of white cottages **Nos 50 -58. Main Street**. These cottages once belonged to Ivy House and date from the late 17th century. Nos 52 & 54 are now one property as are Nos 56 and 58. Originally, they would have been single-storey, single-room workshops as upper floors were added later. No 52 was the laundry for Ivy House, evidence of three fireplaces and a filled-in well support this. Nails in a metal pot to protect against witches were unearthed from the threshold of the front door. No 54 was once called Groom's Cottage. Lucy Sutton, one of Shenstone's oldest ever residents lived at No. 58 and she could still be seen weeding her garden aged 102 in 1942. She lived until she was 104.

4 Start to walk down Main Street towards the Fox & Hounds Pub. On your left is **Ashfield House**. It was built as a terrace of four houses around 1887 and named Jubilee Cottages, a reference to Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. They were owned by Sir Richard Powell Cooper and sold in 1917 at the time of the sale of his estate. They are now a single residence.

5 On your right are **Stamford House & Oscott House**. These attractive Georgian style houses of the mid-19th century have sash windows typical of the period. Stamford House was built around 1850 and the owner had Oscott House built sometime later for his daughter, note the slight change in the colour of the bricks!

6 Further along, cross over Church Road. On your left is the **Fox and Hounds Inn**. It is a listed building of some character having started life as a private house in the 1700s. It was extended and altered in the mid-1800s. As expected in such an old pub there is rumoured to be a ghost. Some staff have heard strange noises and footsteps and did not like going down to the cellar alone.

18 **continued...** the shop and the slaughter house was situated at the far end of the carpark. Aside from the usual bar, snug and smoke room there was also a shooting range! The South Staffordshire Hunt would meet in front of the pub in the early 20th century where Mrs Helena Gregory-Smith, could be seen sitting side-saddle on her horse, wearing a veil over her face. The riders would be handed a drink before the hunt party set off over Shenstone's fields.



19 Follow the path to **The Plough** (formerly the Plough and Harrow). This pub is thought to have been built in the 1700s and had a bar and a smoke room with a large wooden hall at the rear. The Women's Institute regularly held their meetings here. The two modern houses next door to the pub were built on the site of Shenstone's Blacksmith's shop owned by Dan Harrison. The village children would have experienced the roar of bellows and the smell of burning hooves! His brother Herbert Harrison was the village wheelwright, cabinet maker and funeral director and his workshop was situated behind the Blacksmith's shop.

20 Retrace your steps to the Cooper Room. Opposite you will see **The Cenotaph**. This Aberdeen granite obelisk memorial was built in 1921 to mark the deaths of soldiers from the village in the Great War. The bronze tablet is engraved with names to honour those inhabitants of Shenstone and the surrounding villages who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Above this is a later tablet to those who fell in WWII. Poppy wreaths surround the Cenotaph, laid by representatives of the many community groups of the village at the well-attended Remembrance Day Service here. The Cenotaph Island was once the site of the **Old Greysbrooke School**. In 1727, Robert Greisbrook of Greisbrook Hall left 30 shillings per annum in his Will for the schooling of poor children. The first school was built on this site. Its position on an island where the Cenotaph now stands proved to be a danger to the school children from passing horse and carriages, so a new school was built on Birmingham Road and the old one was demolished. This spot was later chosen for the War Memorial. The present School in Barnes Road was opened in 1968 and the old Greysbrooke School on the Birmingham Road was demolished in 1981.



21 Cross over the road to Oak House and follow the pavement around the corner until you reach the **Sensory Garden**. This pretty fore-garden was created as a Millennium project for **Trinity Methodist Church**.

7 Opposite the Fox & Hounds is **Lincoln House**. This Grade II listed property with its distinctive rounded stair tower is shown on the 1818 Enclosure Map and was then a substantial home with extensive grounds and orchard but you will no longer be able to pick the fruit as the local shops have been built on the site. In the late 19th century a resident, Edward Smart, ran a business curing ham and bacon. Evidence of this business can be seen in the extensive cellars. American officers lived there during World War II while the soldiers were billeted in Nissen huts on the orchard land. Today the building is divided into flats.



8 Further along, on your left is **The Cottage**. This unusual zig zag shaped house dates to the 17th century with 19th century additions and contains some hidden architectural gems, such as an old cruck beam in the roof and herringbone brickwork on the back wall.

9 A few more steps will bring you to a pink house – **Pennington**. The right-hand ground floor window of this 19th century property used to be the entrance to a small butcher's shop. There is also a building in the garden which once housed pigs destined for the shop! From around the mid-20th century Mr Jones (and later his daughter Kath Walton) ran it as a greengrocer's shop and his two horses, Dolly and Betty were stabled behind the shop.

10 Next on your left is a row of **Terraced Houses**. Many of the older residents spent their pocket money in one of these cottages. The front parlour was a sweet shop and there were eggs for sale in the window too. In the 1940s it was known as Tottie's wool shop. The next house, **No. 26** in this row of four terraced cottages has a blue-bricked cellar with an arched ceiling. The only entrance to this cellar is from **No 24**, next door. An oven was discovered under the floor of the neighbouring house against the cellar wall. A bricked up doorway from No 24 to No 26 was found in a bedroom and the central doorway at the front suggests this may once have been one house.

11 Across the road you will find the **Village Shops** which were built in the 1960s. The Jubilee Clock in front of the shops commemorates the Diamond Jubilee of our Queen in 2012. The plaques around the clock are well worth a close inspection as they illustrate the local history, industry, and transport links of Shenstone past and present. On the pavement beneath the clock are names of local families. Chances are you will be able to spot the names of someone you know.



12 Carry on down Main Street, on your left is **Oddfellows Hall**. This interesting hall was built as a Reading Room in the Crimean War period – around 1853. Note its high triangle shaped roof. It was named after the Royal Grove of Odd fellows – a benevolent society. After a ball for the grand opening, the left unsupported wall had bulged and cracked

21 **continued...** In 1925 a meeting was called in Oddfellows Hall to discuss the building of a Methodist Church. Albert Warriner, who at that time lived at the new Shenstone Court was a founder member of the scheme. The meeting was obviously very productive as £550 was raised and 2 years later the church opened its doors to worshipers. Today the Church and Hall are a centre for many village activities.

22 A few steps further and you will see **The Railway Station** ahead. This impressive, gothic style, Victorian building had ornate chimneys and a glass canopy, but they were removed in the 1970s. It once had a large waiting room with a chimney on the opposite platform. It was the Principal Station on the route between Sutton and Lichfield and opened for passengers and goods circa 1884. The sweeping car park, once gated, was originally laid out for the convenience of horses and carriages. Nearby were sidings, shunting yards and pens for the farmers' livestock. When King George V visited Shenstone in 1919 the Royal Train spent the night in the sidings.



23 Looking up Station Road and to the left of the Railway Station is **Admiral Parker Drive**. This road was named after Shenstone's most famous inhabitant Admiral Sir William Parker 1st Baronet of Shenstone and was built on the site of the old railway sidings. Born in 1781 he joined the Navy aged 12 years and served under Lord Nelson, taking part in the Battle of the Glorious First of June. He quickly rose through the ranks eventually being appointed Admiral of the Fleet. As Commander in Chief of the flagship he was present at the signing of the Treaty of Nanking which marked the end of the First Opium War, when China ceded Hong Kong to the British. Mount Parker in Hong Kong is named after him. He and his large family lived for many years at Shenstone Lodge on the Birmingham Road. He died in 1866 and is buried in Shenstone churchyard. A memorial is also in Lichfield Cathedral.



24 Go around the corner into New Road which was constructed circa 1895 as part of the railway development. A little further, on the opposite side of the road you will see the beginning of **Richard Cooper Road** which was named after Sir Richard Powell Cooper who lived at Shenstone Court. He was a veterinary surgeon, industrial entrepreneur and farmer and was a great benefactor to the village.



25 On your left you will see the two houses called **Defiance & Victory**. These were built during the first half of the 20th century despite much opposition from locals. The case even reached the High Court. The builder won his battle and named them 'Defiance' and 'Victory' after two of Nelson's battleships or was it to cock a snook at his neighbours!

12 **continued...** and had to be supported by an iron pin. If you look closely you can still see this pin today. The Hall has served many functions throughout its life - the office of a savings club, the second in Staffordshire, a newspaper and sweet shop, a café, a hairdresser and finally today a flower shop with a flat above.



13 If you look across the road you will see **Aston Close** which was built in the 1980s on the site of Aston's bakery and grocery store. It was run by Thomas Aston and his family. The next door property, also now demolished was the old Post Office run by the Aston sisters.

14 Next on the left is a **Linked Row of Cottages** previously called Grove Terrace. These houses date to when Oddfellows Hall was built, around 1853. James Law, Chancellor of Lichfield Cathedral and a Lichfield benefactor owned the land on which Oddfellows Hall and these cottages were built. Reverend Essington, Vicar of St John's Church at the time, persuaded Chancellor Law to build the cottages and the Hall for the benefit of the people of Shenstone.

15 Further along on your left is **Oak House**. This 18th century house has an interesting history. Footings from part of the demolished 13th century **Greisbrook Hall** were unearthed in the back garden. Greisbrook Hall was a medieval moated manor house and one-time home of crusading knights. The three-acre Greisbrook Estate lay between what is now Main Street, Lynn Lane, and New Road. The garage at the side of Oak House was once a small cottage, home of the Hackett family. The bricked-up windows of the cottage are clearly visible.



16 Cross over the road and a few steps further on is **The Cooper Room**. This hall was built by the village benefactor Sir Richard Powell Cooper in 1905 as a recreation room – but only for the working men of the village, most of whom were employed by him. The women were not allowed to step over the threshold until after WWII. Today it plays an active role in village life as the venue for birthday parties, exercise classes, art classes, Christmas fairs, and the WI.

17 Continuing along the footpath you will reach the **Telephone Cottages**. Sir Richard Powell Cooper also had these terraced houses built in 1905. They were built by Alf Harrison with bricks made at Shenstone Brickworks near Wall Island. They became known as "Telephone Cottages" as one of them housed a manual telephone exchange which filled the front room. If walls had ears and lips what village gossip they could tell us!

18 Opposite Telephone Cottages is **The Railway**, Once known as the Buck's Head, it was rebranded with the advent of the Railway in 1884. The window that you can see on the far right was once a small butcher's shop. The landlord's son ran

26 Continuing up the road, you pass two sets of semi-detached late Victorian or early **Edwardian Houses** built circa 1901. These houses are typical of the period and were much desired by the rising professional class of the time. For a couple of years in the 1960s the dining room of No 17 was a doctor's surgery and the lounge was the waiting room. The surgery then moved to Barnes Road.

27 At the crossroads turn left into Church Road. (Take care - no footpath). On the corner is **Spindle Tree Cottage** an attractive Grade II, early 19th century cottage named after the Spindle tree, in the garden. Formerly called Church View, it was the home of the village policeman, PC George Spraggett in the 1930s. The next occupants were Albert Warmington, his wife Violet and an evacuee who lived with them during World War II.

28 Next on the left is a **converted barn**. This barn originally belonged to its neighbour **Stowe House** a fine, late 18th century Grade II listed residence. This building of mellow, local brick has a grand doorway edged with Doric columns and a pediment with a fanlight. It was probably a farmhouse given the substantial barn next door. In the 1930s it was known as The Sycamores. There were two cottages at the rear, now incorporated into the house.

29 The next house on your left is **Vine Cottage**. When this pretty cottage was built is unknown, but it was marked on the 1837 title map and was then occupied by Mary Hobby a shoemaker. Shenstone residents may well remember the painting of cheetahs on the old brick wall executed by the artist in residence before the cottage was updated about 2011.

👉 At this point if you wish to take a diversion to Court Drive go to the **Yellow Route**, you will then rejoin the **Blue Route** to see the Church. The two routes combined are 2.1 miles. Otherwise continue on the Blue Route as below.

30 Retrace your steps to the crossroads, cross over the road and turn left up St John's Hill. Continue up the hill until you reach **Haddon House** on your right. This substantial property was rebuilt in 1972. The original property of similar design see photo, was reputed to be dated to about 1640. A former occupant was Sir Richard Cooper's sister-in-law Miss Margaret Ashmall a founder member of Shenstone's WI. The present house contains many items of historical architectural salvage. The old lamp posts in the front garden were from the Mall in London, the staircase from Glangarry Castle, Scotland, the main fireplace from Leeds Castle, Kent and two stone carved angels over doorways are from Lichfield Cathedral.



31 Cross the road into the Church grounds. The grassy area in front of the Church is known as the **Glebe**. 'Glebe' is an area of land within a parish used to support the parish priest. This would have been an extensive piece of land including the vicarage and grounds. On the left is the Church Hall and on your far left, nearer the church, is the new Vicarage, built in the 1970s.