

The Peaky Blinders were an urban street gang based in Birmingham, England, emerging around 1880 as a crime wave swept across Britain. They established controlled territory, in the late 19th century began expanding their criminal enterprise. Their activities included protection rackets, fraud, bribery, smuggling, hijacking, robbery, and bookmaking

After nearly a decade of political control, their growing influence brought on the attention of a larger gang, the Birmingham Boys. The Peaky Blinders' expansion into racecourses led to violent backlash from the Birmingham gang. Peaky Blinder families physically distanced themselves from Birmingham's centre into the countryside. With the Blinders' withdrawal from the criminal underworld, the Sabini gang moved in on the Birmingham Boys gang and solidified political control over Central England in the 1930s.

# PEAKY BLINDERS



THOMAS TERRACE B10

SMALL HEATH B10



ARTHUR CRESCENT B10



SHELBY STREET B10

The Peaky Blinders wore a recognizable outfit, most notable for the flat cap capable of hiding razor blades. Gang members as young as teenagers also wore silk scarves around their necks and sported thick wool jackets and buttoned waistcoats. The gang chose its outfit to add class to their thieving. The gear also helped distinguish the Peaky Blinders from rival gangs. The gang was highly organised with its own systems of hierarchy.

The Peaky Blinders weren't the only ones who dressed up. Their girlfriends also followed the gang's lead by wearing expensive, tailored clothing, often wearing pearls and imitated their boyfriends by wearing silk handkerchiefs.



In 2013 the name was reused for a TV BBC series entitled the Peaky Blinders. The series, which stars Cillian Murphy, Paul Anderson and Joe Cole, is a crime story about a fictional power-crazed crime family, The Shelby's, operating in Birmingham just after World War I.



The Peaky Blinders also recruited children in Birmingham. The West Midlands Police arrested 13-year-old David Taylor for carrying a gun. Charles Lambourne was only 12 when police arrested him in 1905.