



BOARDREADER

July 2025

Shinfield Players' Theatre's mission is to provide a venue for creating and experiencing theatre in all its forms. We aim to continue to train and develop our membership so that everyone enjoys socialising, working together and participating in theatre.

From the Chair

Welcome to July's edition of the Boardtreader.

Our June production was the wonderful Agatha Christie play "And Then Were None". The cast did an amazing job bringing this tense thriller to the stage and received very well-deserved praise from the audiences. We were thrilled to see so many people coming to see the play and very excited to have a sell-out for the final performance.

The Juniors and Middles have just performed the much-loved musical Beauty and the Beast. It was a great success for everyone involved and thoroughly enjoyed by all. This was leader Jamie's last show with the group as he is leaving his role as leader and director to spend time with Jess and their new baby Harry. We are very sad to see him leave the Youth Group team and thank him for all his hard work over the last few years, but we look forward to seeing him again next season when he directs "The Great British Bake Off".

In July, the Seniors will be performing two plays: 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Two' and I encourage you to come and see their productions. They have put in lots of work and will, I am sure enjoy bringing their shows to the stage.

Our October Musical 'Calendar Girls' is in rehearsal and the cast are having fun getting to know each other as they work with Sharon and Patrick to learn the blocking and songs for this moving musical.

Dates for the previews and auditions for 'It's a Wonderful Life', the November Play, are coming up (details below) as are the dates for our next pantomime "Agatha Twisty and the Murder in Pantoland

We are coming to the end of our 2024/25 season, and we will soon be going into our closed season when we get down to the many jobs that need to be done to maintain our theatre both front of house and backstage.

Look out for dates in this Boardreader for the Working Weekend and calls for your help.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the theatre this season and we look forward to seeing you again next season.

Cate

Cate Naylor

Chair, Shinfield Players Theatre

Come along this Saturday for the July Theatroke

Saturday 5th July 7.00pm



...yes, it's this Saturday! So come along for a really enjoyable evening. Doors open at 7pm and the singing will start around 7.30pm. It's like karaoke but with musical theatre songs. And rather than singing to a screen we perform to the audience.

Theatroke is open to members, friends and family and is a social evening with plenty of opportunities for singing and catching up with friends. There is no obligation to sing but we welcome singers of all levels of experience to perform a song to a friendly, supportive audience. There are also opportunities to sing along with ensemble numbers.

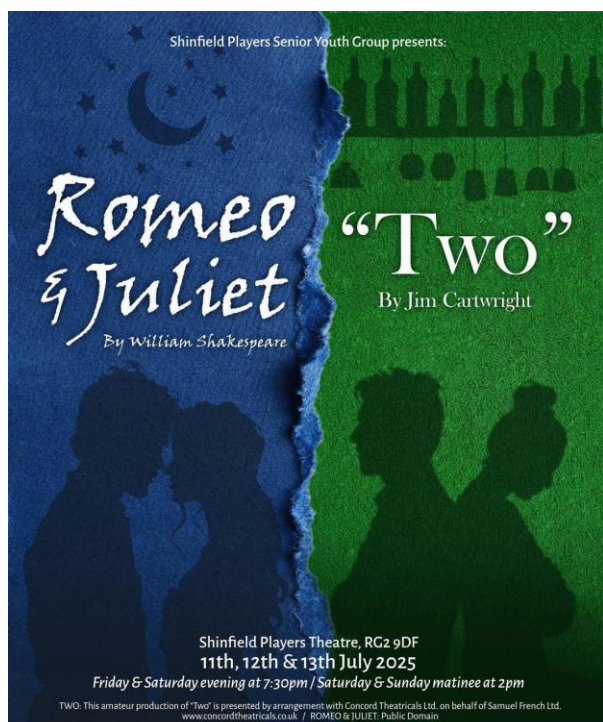
No tickets are required but we like to know how many people are coming- so please respond to the Facebook invite (<https://fb.me/e/3gM2Jmmtd> or let Lara know directly email ldsavory@gmail.com). If you would like to sing then let Lara know that too so she can make sure you're on the list.

And whether you are coming along or not, Lara is always grateful for suggestions for good chorus numbers from shows that lots of people will know, or solo numbers that would work well with everyone singing along.

Buy Your Tickets Now for Two Fabulous Plays from the Senior Youth Group

Romeo and Juliet and Two

Friday 11th July at 7.30pm, Saturday 12th, at 2pm and 7.30pm and Sunday 13th July, 2pm



The Senior Youth Group are performing two shows in one evening for four performances this month.

One is the wonderful play 'Two' by Jim Cartright that explores an evening in a northern pub in the 1980s. We meet a variety of characters that frequent that one night as well as the bickering landlord and landlady. This short play has humour and pathos and is a wonderful observation of human behaviour.

The evening also presents Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet. The well-known story of the star stuck lovers is shown in an up-dated abridged version showing the perilous journey of the two youngsters, members of rival 80s pop bands rather than the traditional feuding families. Popular 80s songs are used throughout the show, including some live performances.

These shows have really stretched the performers' acting skills and the result will be fantastic. Please do come along and support them - you will be returning the support they give to all shows throughout the season.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Come and Help to Keep our Theatre in Good Order at the SPT Working Weekends 2025

Sunday 20th July

But don't miss our first Stripping Sunday!... sorry, it is wallpaper stripping but we do need your help with this monumental task! The first one is on Sunday 20^h July - there will be more ... be great to see you there.

First Working Weekend 16th and 17th August

The Foyer Refresh

Plans for a complete makeover of the foyer is currently on hold due to all the other high priority items that need to be resolved. However, a refresh has been approved by the committee which will require mostly time and labour with minimal cost.

This is planned for working weekend of 16th & 17th. Most of the time on 16th will focus on clearing out, cleaning, repairing, and painting. The 17th should mostly be putting things back and finishing off with the laying of the new carpet tiles. As with all things, we expect to uncover areas that may require extra time and labour to either repair properly or tweak temporarily to see us through the next season.

If you wish to help with raising money for the refresh then our GoFundMe Page remains open to all to donate under our registered charity details. Every £1 donated (more if you wish) will help fund the materials for the project.

<https://www.gofundme.com/manage/a-night-on-the-tiles>

Pete Ashton, foh@shinfieldplayers.co.uk; will be co-ordinating this area over the working weekend and welcomes everyone and anyone especially those hiding unknown trade skills such as carpentry, electrics & decorating.

This is a social weekend to meet up with fellow members for plenty of fun and some work. Join us for our first Working Weekend of the closed season.

It's always a great occasion and is enjoyable and very satisfying when you see the fruits of your labour! No job is too small - making a cup of tea for everyone is always very welcome!

Any time that you can spend with us to help, be it one hour or all two days, would be great. Some jobs require no previous experience - just your enthusiasm, a sense of fun and a willingness to join in.

Other jobs need a bit of experience, a willingness to have a go or some strength but all supported by our seasoned and skilful members.
Come along to support the theatre and meet up with everyone.
We look forward to seeing you!

Read throughs and Auditions for a Wonderful Play!
Just the Perfect Play before Christmas

It's a Wonderful Life

Read throughs and auditions: 22nd, 24th and 27th July

Show dates: 19th to 22nd November 2025



It's a Wonderful Life is considered to be one of the greatest films of all time and among the best Christmas films. It has been recognized by the American Film Institute as one of the 100 best American films ever made. It has been adapted by Mary Elliott Nelson into a magical play and is a joyful story of love and hope.

The play has the scope for 8 cast members with additional small parts and non-speaking parts. Some parts are doubled up.

Cast of Characters:

George Bailey – (Lead Role) - 303 lines

Clarissa Odbody – Angel therefore ageless – 86 lines

Uncle Billy – 75 lines

Mary Bailey (Nee Hatch) - 68 lines

George Bailey –(aged 12) - 48 lines

Adult Sam - 47 lines

Bert – Police Officer – 40 lines

Potter – Rich Businessman – 32 lines

Gloria – Angel therefore Ageless – 22 lines

Violet - 21 lines

Mr Gower – Chemist – 19 lines

Joseph – Angel – 19 lines

Mr. Martini - 16 lines

Adult Harry Bailey - 11 lines

Harry (aged 9) - 11 lines, Sam (aged 12) - 9 lines, Mary (aged 9) - 7 lines,

Tom – 6 lines, Mrs. Thompson – 5 lines, Mrs. Davies – 2 lines

Violet (aged 9) - 4 lines, Ruth Bailey Dakin – 4 Lines, Charlie – 3 Lines,

Ed – 3 Lines, Randall – 3 Lines, Welch – 3 Lines, Ernie – 2 Lines, Passer-By

– 1 Line

Read throughs will take place at the theatre on the **Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 24th July at 8pm** and **Auditions on the 27th July 2pm to 6pm**, please put these dates in your diary.

Cast must be available for rehearsals on Tuesdays and Thursdays from September to November and optionally Thursdays in August.

'I am also open to any other assistance in producing the show from set design to recording lines for play back (some of the lines are 'prayers' being heard in heaven.)

I would also like the 5 main characters younger selves to be played by youngsters who can appear of the right age, 3 male, 2 female, 8 to 12 years old, to give the early scenes more authenticity.'

For more information contact Derek Lockwood by email on lockwoodderek@hotmail.com

Sign up for a great evening at the SPT

Quiz Night

August 2nd 7.00pm for 7.30pm start



Bring your own snacks and nibbles - the bar will be open.

We look forward to seeing you and testing your knowledge!

Teams up to 4 to 6 people. Don't worry if you haven't a ready-made group, we will be happy to help to form teams – just let us know

If you'd like to come along then please email: secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

£5.00 for members/£5.50 for non-members - 7pm for a 7:30pm start

Bar will be open - Bring your own snacks and nibbles - <https://fb.me/e/7PHUkU8cZ>;

Fundraising for SPT

Please could you support the theatre as we try to raise funds for major works in the building.

There are two organisations below that can help. If you put Shinfield Players Theatre, charity number 1154841 in as your chosen charity and SPT benefits when you donate or shop.

Recyclekind <https://recyclekind.co.uk>

Turn your old clothes into meaningful change and our theatre benefits. No more searching for donation points or overflowing textile banks, they pick up your donations right from your doorstep. Choose the theatre as your UK charity, and once your items are processed, funds go directly to the theatre. How does it work?

1. Enter your postcode and select your charity. Then choose your preferred collection date.
2. Pack Your Donations. Fill bags or boxes with clothes, shoes, textiles, and bric-a-brac.
3. They collect from your address, and you receive notification of your 2-hour collection slot the evening before.
4. SPT benefits 😊

EasyFundRaising <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>

SPT is registered with Easy Fundraising? All you need to do is sign up with them and then if you make a purchase, brands will pay a commission when you start to shop from the easyfundraising website or app.

Congratulations to Everyone at the

NODA District Awards and Celebration Day

On June 22nd, a group of members attended the NODA Celebration Day where they were awarded their NODA District 14 awards.

What a proud day to be a SPT member!





These are the awards:

- 🏆 Chorus Award: Sister Act
- 🏆 Male character in a play: Gordon Bird as 'Lol' in The Safari Party
- 🏆 Comedic Performance: Karen Bird as 'Minnie' in 'Chase me up Farndale Avenue S'il Vous Plait'
- 🏆 Unsung Hero: Debbie Wheeler
- 🏆 Person under 30 who has made an outstanding contribution to their society: Millie Wilkins

Many Congratulations and a Big Welcome to Baby Harry!

Congratulations to Jamie, our Junior and Middle Youth Group leader, and his partner Jess, on the birth of their baby Harry!
Warmest best wishes and love to the new parents!



Jamie Milburn and Youth Groups


Jamie will now be stepping down as leader of the Junior and Middle Youth Group following the recent birth of his son and we would like to thank him for all his hard work with the children over the past few years and to send our very best wishes.


This does mean that we will need one or more volunteers to work alongside Lara so that the group can continue to run in September. If you would be willing to help in any way, then please see the information below/check the email about this sent on 24th June


From September Jamie Milburn will no longer be able to continue as a leader for the Junior and Middle Youth Group due to recently becoming a dad. As a Theatre, we obviously want to keep running this group but Lara clearly can't do that on her own!


We have been looking at ways to continue running the group whilst also not putting too many demands on people.


We know that there are people who would like to support the youth groups but don't feel that they have the time or skills to do so. So, as well as looking for volunteers who would be interested in taking a key role in leading the youth group as Jamie and Lara currently do, we have identified other ways that people could volunteer.


 **Administrative support** - this could be performed by someone who cannot commit to being at the youth group sessions.

 **Regular session supervisor(s)** - someone who can commit to being at most of the sessions but wouldn't have to take any leadership responsibilities (although they could get more involved if they wished)

 **Ad hoc session supervisors** - someone who could be at a session every so often to cover when the regular supervisors are not available. Ideally, we will have a bank of people who could perform this role.

 **Summer show director** - someone to help choose and then direct the Summer show, taking a creative lead on the production. They would need to be able to commit to being at most of the sessions from 6.30 till 7.30 from January till June (term time only) - we would also be happy for this to start in November or December to allow more time to rehearse.

 **Summer show producer** - to help the director manage the logistics of the show (eg. helping to organise costumes, props, programme etc.)

 **Musical support** - Lara is more than happy for anyone to volunteer to support or take over the music aspect of the group if that suits their skills.

Some of these roles could be combined if people wanted to do multiple things.

The group meets on a Wednesday evening (term time only) generally from 6 till 7.30 pm. There is potential for this to change in the future but for now the assumption is that the session will remain in this slot to ensure current members can continue to attend. If you are interested in joining me as a key leader of the group and/or directing but cannot do the Wednesday evening then please let me know - we would rather change the night than lose the group completely.

If you are interested in potentially getting involved in any of the ways described above please do get in touch with Lara (ldsavory@gmail.com or 07968 534714) to discuss further. Obviously, we want something in place in good time for September so please do contact her as soon as possible.

Safeguarding note: any roles that involve working with the children or access to personal information will require a DBS check to ensure the children's safety. If you do not already have a certificate then we can organise this with you and cover the cost where one arises - please do not let this be a barrier to volunteering.

Thank you 🤝

Tidy Morning

20th September



We are planning 1 more of our successful tidy morning (a few hours 9.30am to 12.30) for the outside – please come along to help Outside woodwork paint (window/door frames etc).

Facilities up-date – Excellent News about Roof Repairs

Many thanks to the Maintenance team for organising the long over-due roof repairs that have been made to the Lobby and the Sound Store.

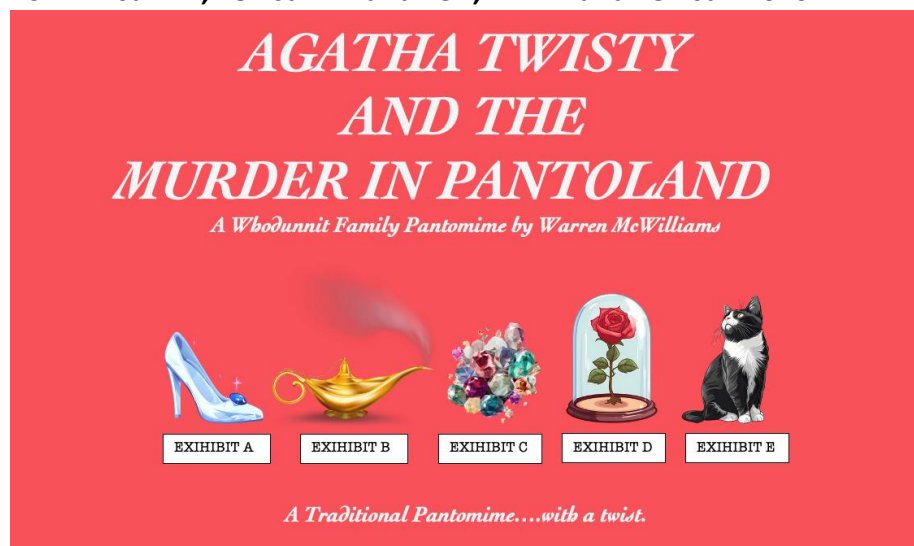
But they are not stopping there!

The leaking roof to the Furniture Store is also being fixed which is much appreciated by everyone and particularly Mushy who will be very happy when the work is complete.

Read Throughs, Auditions and Lots of Fun for

Agatha Twisty and the Murder in Pantoland

16th 17th Jan x2, 18th Jan x2 and 23rd, 24thx2 and 25th Jan 2026



Dates for the Diary:

Intro Evening – Thursday 25th September 2025

Auditions – Sunday 5th October and Wednesday 8th October 2025

Show Dates - 16th, 17th, 18th, 23rd, 24th and 25th January 2026

Have you ever been watching a pantomime and thought to yourself, “What this needs is a murder”? Neither have we.

But this year it might just be unavoidable because the citizens of Pantoland are at breaking point dealing with their miserable monarch Queen Jezabella. She’s been raising taxes, taking land, placing curses, withholding promotions and even blackmailing her subjects.

Luckily, Agatha Twisty, the world’s greatest made-up detective and her trusty assistant Wadsworth are on hand should anyone decide to take matters into their own hands. Join your panto favourites in a traditional family pantomime...with a twist.

Meet the characters (3m, 5f, 13m/f)

The Sleuths

- **Dame Agatha Twisty** - Our Dame and super sleuth (m, 213 lines) – sings one song and may have some solo lines in group numbers.
- **Wadsworth** - Agatha’s willing assistant (m/f, 174 lines) – sings one song and may have some solo lines in group numbers.

The Suspects

- **The Seven Dwarfs** - tough miners whose lives depend on their jewel mine (m/f): Dock (33 lines), Happee (9 lines), Doh-pee (8 lines), Sleepee (5 lines), Sneezee (5 lines), Bashfool (6 lines), Grumpee (10 lines) – one group song led by Happee, other dwarfs may have some solo lines.

- **Aladdin** (m/f, 36 - lines) & **Wishee** (m/f, 32 lines). - two lads from old Peking who work in Twankey's Laundry - sing one song as a duet and may have some solo lines in group numbers.
- **Cinderella** - poor girl who is put upon by her wicked stepmother and sisters (f, 41 lines) – sings one song and may have some solo lines in group numbers.
- **Dick Whittington** - came to Pantoland searching for his fortune and was made Mayor (m/f, 37 lines) – sings one song as a duet with Fairy Bowbell and some solo lines in group numbers.
- **Beauty** (f, 39 lines) – a pretty young lady with a cursed partner – sings one song and may have some solo lines in group numbers.

The Victim

- **Queen Jezabella** - the worst villain of them all and ruler of Pantoland (f, 80 lines) – sings one song and may have some solo lines in group numbers.

Other characters – all apart from Igor will also be part of the Chorus

- **Igor** - Queen Jezabella's servant (m, 59 lines) – sings one song and may have some solo lines in group numbers.
- **Postman** - Pantoland's postie (m/f, 12 lines) – no solo singing.
- **Mrs Potts** - Beauty and the Beast's housekeeper (f, 11 lines) – no solo singing.
- **Beast** – Beauty's cursed partner (m, 10 lines) – no solo singing.
- **Tommy** - Dick Whittington's cat (m/f, 3 lines) – no solo singing.
- **Fairy Bowbell** - from 'Dick Whittington', appears in a dream sequence (f, no dialogue, sings one song as a duet with Dick Whittington)

Cameos & Chorus

A variety of Villagers, other recognisable Panto characters and other famous fictional detectives – there will be lots to do!

Front of House

We would like to thank everyone that has helped with FOH for the season and welcome volunteers to help out with our final production before our closed season.

"Romeo & Juliet" and "Two" Senior Youth Group

7.30pm Friday & Saturday 11th-12th July

2pm Sunday 13th July

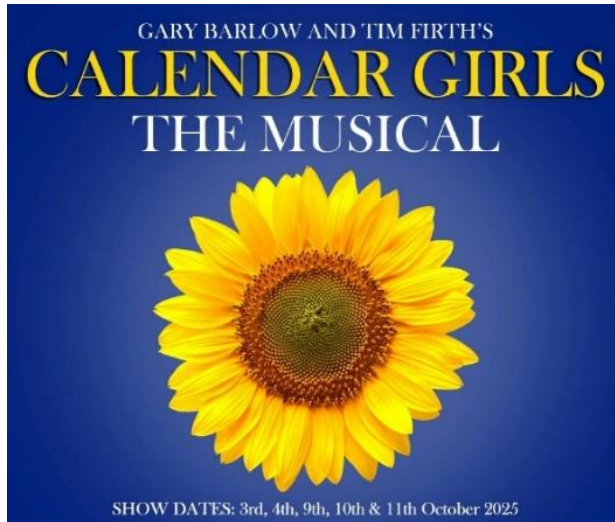
We're updating our current FOH Distribution List so please email us at foh@shinfieldplayers.co.uk to let us know your availability, so we can make sure we have your current email address on our list!

Many thanks

Heidi and Pete

Calendar Girls

3rd, 4th, 9th, 10th, 11th October 2025



This musical inspires and empowers everyone who sees it with the true story of Yorkshire's own Calendar Girls. It follows the story of a group of ordinary ladies from their local Women's Institute who achieved something extraordinary together. The combination of humour with emotion creates something truly special in theatre.

The storyline is sensitive and heart-rending, touching on the situations that affect so many people. A group of ladies are brought together by the loss of Annie's husband to cancer. Her friends at the local WI come together to do something positive to help and they decide to re-create their annual calendar to raise money.

Calendar Girls offsets tough moments in the story with witty one-liners and funny moments that grasp the audience's interest.

Make sure you are there to cheer and acknowledge the bravery and beauty of those women up on stage. Don't miss it and buy your tickets now!

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/shinfieldplayerstheatre>

Planning for Future Shows!

Would you like to direct?

We are looking for a Directors for the 2026/2027 season. We welcome all ideas from new Directors and those with experience.

Please contact us with your ideas and proposals – we look forward to hearing from you.

Contact: productions@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Costumes and Props Team

Our costumes and props team valiantly keep order and maintain our Costume and Props stores. This is not an easy job, and they need your co-operation.

Please could you make sure that you ask them for permission and help with both costumes and props. Purchasing costumes or props may not be necessary and it is an extra cost to the theatre. So please check with them as we have an extensive resource which we can draw on.

Hiring:

If hiring costume or props please direct enquiries to the team.

Donating:

If you wish to donate items, please make sure that you have checked with the team before you bring anything in to the theatre.

Costume and Props Contacts:

Costumes

Debbie Wheeler and Cate Naylor costumes@shinfieldplayers.co.uk;

Props

Graham Smith and Teddy Mercury props@shinfieldplayers.co.uk;

Would you like to learn to Portable Appliance Test (PAT) at the Theatre?

If you are methodical, sensible, and have a basic understanding of the use of electrical devices and the ability to learn a new skill, then we would ask you to complete a short online training course with a test (certification) which can be completed in a day.

It is a very easy task, and you will obtain a certificate to confirm that you have this excellent transferable skill.

SPT will pay for your test certification and an experienced person will support you on your first few tests.

Please email maintenance@shinfieldplayers.co.uk if you have any questions or are interested.

SPT Needs You!



Are you a whizz with a needle, or a drill? Do you enjoy building things or painting? Or do you have a passion for administration or fundraising? If so, come and get involved at Shinfield Players Theatre; there's lots to do.

You don't need to be an expert, but if you are willing to help, we have people here who can show you the way.

If you can help with any of the following, please get in touch.

secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

- Wardrobe or props for shows
- Building and painting sets
- Help with running fund-raising events
- Help with running administration and bookings
- Help with running the building

SPT Committee Members

Committee Members

Cate Naylor (Chair) chair@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Sandra Miall (Secretary) secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Sue Gowen (Treasurer) treasurer@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Graeme Rhodes (Marketing and Publicity) marketing@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Jess Wilkins (Social Media and Publicity) socialmedia@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Maggie Smith (Productions) productions@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Phil Gowen/Neil Coupland (Facilities Team) maintenance@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Committee c@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Useful emails

Junior and Middle Youth Group jyg@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Senior Youth Group syg@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Membership membership@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Box Office boxoffice@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Technical technical@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Wardrobe wardrobe@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Props props@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Bookings bookings@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Maintenance maintenance@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Front of House foh@shinfieldplayers.co.uk;

Costumes costumes@shinfieldplayers.co.uk;

Props props@shinfieldplayers.co.uk;

The 2024/2025 Season

Two and Romeo and Juliet

Senior Youth Group

Dates – 11th July 12th and 13th July

2025/2026 Season

Calendar Girls

Dir: Sharon Young and Sue Gowen

MD: Patrick Naylor

Dates - 3rd, 4th, 9th, 10th, 11th October 2025

It's a Wonderful Life

Dir: Derek Lockwood

Dates - 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd November 2025

Agatha Twisty and the Murder in Panto Land

Dir: Matt Chishick

MD: Lara Savory

Dates – 16th 17th January x 2, 18th January x2 and 23rd, 24thx 2 and 25th January 2026

The Great British Bake Off

Dir: Jamie Milburn

MD: Chris Cherng

Choreographer: Millie Wilkins

Dates – 17th, 18th and 23rd, 24th, 25th April

Committee Meetings

If you have any questions or comments for the committee, please send them to Sandra Miall, secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Board Treader News Items

Please email items for the Material for the August Board Treader.

To be sent by **26th July** to boardtreader@shinfieldplayers.co.uk;