



# BOARDREADER

## June 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 June's edition of the Boardtreader.

As you receive your June BT, we are going into show week for Agatha Christie's wonderful play, *And Then There Were None*. The cast have been working very hard in rehearsals to develop their characters and are getting ever deeper into the twists and turns of the plot... ten strangers, ten murders and the mystery of "who dunnit". The play is set on the remote Soldier Island and our set team have pulled out all the stops to create the garden room in the big house on this desolate island. We hope to see you at the show next week and look forward to welcoming you.

The youth groups are also rehearsing hard and looking forward to their summer shows; the much-loved musical *Beauty and the Beast* performed by the Juniors and Middles group is well on the way and will be on stage at the end of June, whilst the Seniors will be performing their two plays: 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Two' in July. More details can be found in this edition.

Our October Musical 'Calendar Girls' is now cast, and rehearsals have begun. The cast list is in this edition. Previews and auditions for the November Play 'It's a Wonderful Life' are in July and full details are below.

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, a group of members who were awarded NODA District 14 awards will be attending the NODA Celebrations where they will receive their award, and we look forward to hearing all about the day.

You may have heard that we were gifted some carpet tiles by the company that Lucy Watson works for as they were rebranding. Thank you to Lucy and to Patrick and Peter who drove up to Stevenage to collect the tiles. We look forward to seeing them in situ in the foyer after they are fitted during the closed season.

Enjoy the sunny weather and we look forward to seeing you soon

Cate

**Chair, Shinfield Players Theatre**

Over 300 tickets sold. Make sure you don't miss this thrilling production and buy your tickets now!

## **And Then There Were None**

Agatha Christie

4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> June at 7.45pm

*One by one they die... Who will be next?*



***And Then There Were None*** is Agatha Christie's most popular and bestselling crime novel of all time. A tale of isolation, murder and suspicion begins with eight guests being invited to Soldier Island. They arrive on the desolate island and are greeted by a butler and a cook and that makes 10 in all.

The guests are cut off; there is no telephone and each of them has been lured there under false pretences. Something is horribly wrong from the start. As the numbers reduce the suspense and tension mounts - it becomes an intriguing mystery as to who amongst the guests is the murderer. Will anyone survive?

**Special Offer for Opening Night Buy 3 tickets for the price of 2!**

**Buy your Tickets here:**

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

**Junior and Middle Youth Group present**

## **Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr.**

**Saturday 28th June 2025, 7.00pm and Sunday 29th June 2025, 2.00pm**



Be Our Guest and watch our fantastic youth group's performance of the award-winning animated film and stage play that comes to life in this romantic and beloved take on the classic fairytale.

**Tickets are now on sale!**

**£10 adults      £9 concessions      £5 children**

**Auditions and Read through dates coming soon ...**

## **Agatha Twisty and the Murder in Pantoland**

**16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> Jan x2, 18<sup>th</sup> Jan x2 and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>x2 and 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026**

All of your favourite panto characters are in this show and it has six possible endings! You or your audience decide whodunit!

When the evil villain, Queen Jezabella, meets her end there is only one super sleuth who'll solve the crime, Dame Agatha Twisty.

This production features all the best of pantomime and puts a whodunit twist on the traditional pantomime. Oh yes it does!

## **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.

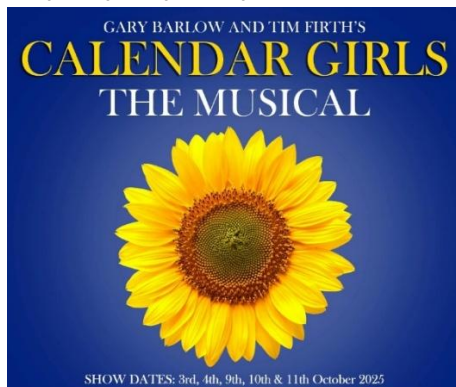
Please contact us with your ideas and proposals – we look forward to hearing from you.

**Contact:** [productions@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:productions@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

**Announcing the Cast - Calendar Girls are GO!**

## **Calendar Girls**

**3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11th October 2025**



We had great fun and some fantastic performances at auditions and are delighted to announce our very talented cast:

Chris	Gilly Meek
Annie	Stacy Jayne Mason
Celia	Shilly Dani Miller
Cora	Sarah Clarke
Ruth	Mazz Hancock
Jessie	Nickie Smith
Marie	Sara Shuttleworth
John	Paul Robinson
Rod	George Apap
Lawrence	George Atkinson
Danny	Harrison Carpenter
Jenny	Teddy Secular-Clark
Tommo	Joseph Boardman
Laura	Jessica Widdicombe
Colin	Simon Trinder
Denis	Not yet cast
Brenda	Cate Naylor
Lady Cravenshire	Karen Bird
Miss Wilsons (coffee)	Juliet England
Miss Wilson (tea)	Karen Bird

We've had three rehearsals so far and can already see the characters and the community spirit coming to life.

Cast members are so enthusiastic about the show that several wanted to come along to our last rehearsal even though they weren't called. Apart from tea and chat, they spent the evening practising lines and supporting other cast members. What great team spirit! People have already started buying tickets, so get in quick to ensure you don't miss what is going to be a very special show.

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

**Looking for a Warm-up to Summer?**

## **July Theatroke**

**Saturday 5th July 7.00pm**



...then come along to our next Theatroke on Saturday 5th July. 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 and confidence to perform a song to a friendly, supportive audience. There are also opportunities to sing along with ensemble numbers.

No tickets required but we like to know how many people are coming - either respond to the Facebook invite or let Lara know directly. If you would like to sing then let Lara know that too so she can make sure you're on the list.

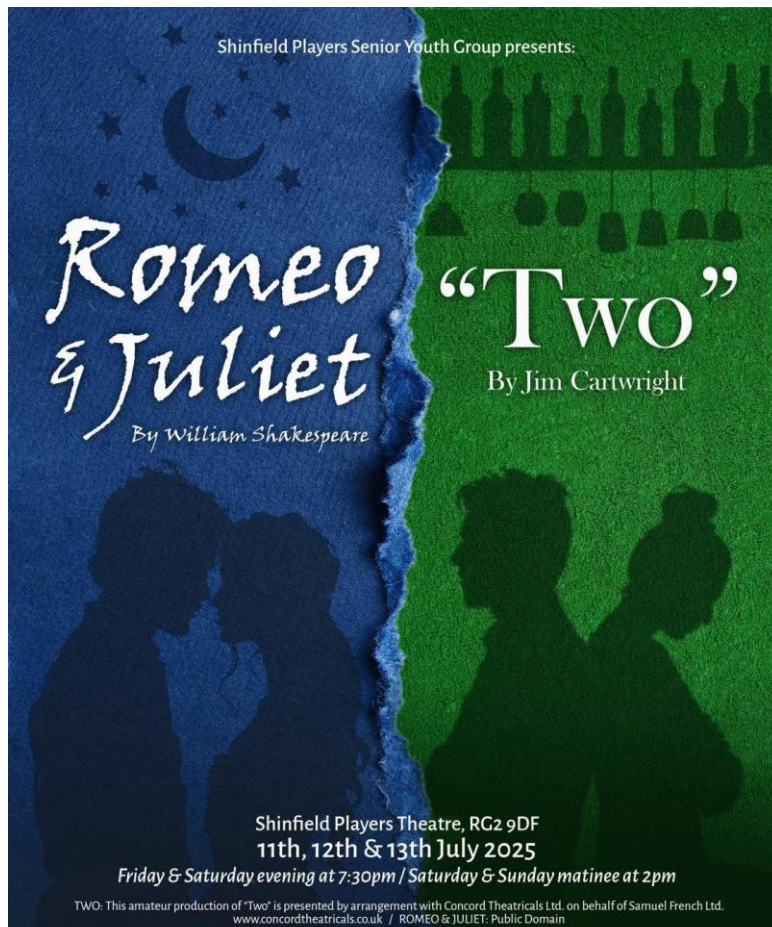
If you've not been before and would like more information, then have a look at the Facebook event (<https://fb.me/e/3gM2Jmmttd>) or contact Lara (email: [ldsavory@gmail.com](mailto:ldsavory@gmail.com))

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.



**Two Fabulous Plays from the  
Senior Youth Group  
Romeo and Juliet and Two**

Friday 11th July at 7.30pm, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>, at 2pm and 7.30pm and Sunday 13th July, 2pm



**Come and See Two Shows for the Price of One.**

The senior youth group are performing two shows this summer.

The wonderful play **Two** by **Jim Cartwright** 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 our two youngsters.

The shows have recently been cast and we thank everyone for the excellent auditions and the leaders had a difficult task reducing the 7 Juliets and 6 landladies into a final cast.

## Read throughs and Auditions for

## **It's a Wonderful Life**

adapted by Mary Elliott Nelson

19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025



This play is based on the wonderful classic film directed by Frank Capra. Mary Elliott Nelson's re-imagining is a joyful story of love, hope and community. Set in a small town in upstate New York. Bedford Falls 1945, and banker George Bailey is feeling that life has passed him by and he's at the end of his rope. When George's guardian angel pays him a visit, he is amazed to discover what life in his beloved town would be like without him. Maybe it's a wonderful life after all?

Written as a 4 hander, the play has scope for more actors. I would like to cast it for 4 to 8 people, with additional small part and nonspeaking parts

**Read throughs and auditions: 22<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July**

**Show dates: 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025**, cast must be available for rehearsals on Tuesdays and Thursdays from September to November and optionally Thursdays in August.

### **Cast:**

**ACTOR 1** - George Bailey - Lead role – Ages from 12 to 38 – 351 Lines

**ACTOR 2** – Plays 6 Characters:

Clarissa Odbody – Angel therefore ageless – 86 Lines

Mary Bailey (Nee Hatch) – Ages from 8 to 34 – 75 Lines

Violet – Ages from 10 to 36 – 25 Lines

Ruth Bailey Dakin – 4 Lines

Mrs. Thompson – 5 Lines

Mrs. Davies – 2 Lines

**ACTOR 3** – Plays 7 Characters:

Uncle Billy – 75 Lines

Sam – Ages from 12 to 38 – 56 Lines

Gloria – Angel therefore Ageless – 22 Lines

Mr. Martini – 16 Lines

Tom – 6 Lines

Charlie – 3 Lines

Ernie – 2 Lines

**ACTOR 4** – Plays 9 characters:

Bert – Police Officer – 40 Lines

Potter – Rich Businessman – 32 Lines

Harry Bailey – Ages 8 to 32 – 22 Lines

Mr Gower – Chemist – 19 Lines

Joseph – Angel – 19 Lines

Ed – 3 Lines

Randall – 3 Lines

Welch – 3 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.

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](mailto:lockwoodderek@hotmail.com)



## Front of House

Congratulations to everyone involved in Just So, we had some lovely feedback from audience members on how much they enjoyed the show and are looking forward to coming back to see other shows.

The second weekend opened with a buzz and it was lovely to meet Julie Slevin, daughter of one of Shinfield Players' founding members. She'd brought her Dad along to see the show as he is a great fan of Rudyard Kipling, so they felt it was the perfect opportunity to come back and visit the theatre after many years away.

We're grateful to Graham Puddephatt, chairman of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust, for his kind donation of a Family Narrow Boat Trip on the "Matilda Too". We ran a separate raffle for this prize, which ran across the two weekends of the show, and was won by Paula Ridge. It raised additional funds for the theatre so if you know anyone who might volunteer outings or activities that might be suitable to raffle off during our up-coming productions please let us know.

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

### **"And Then There Were None"**

7.45pm Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June to Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June

### **"Beauty and the Beast"**

Junior and Middle Youth Groups

7pm Saturday 28th June

2pm Sunday 29th June

### **"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](mailto: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**

## Facilities up-date

Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) was completed a few months ago. It is generally done annually, and this was a very BIG job.

### **What the heck is PAT anyway?**

PAT is a periodic check of any portable (usually plug in) electrical device, with a simple visual check and a check with a simple testing device. It is very easy to do, and we are looking for people who would like to learn how to do it.

So...

### **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](mailto:maintenance@shinfieldplayers.co.uk) if you have any questions or are interested.

## Tidy Morning

20<sup>th</sup> 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)

## 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](mailto: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

# The Great British Bake Off Musical!

17th, 18<sup>th</sup> and 23rd, 24th, 25th April



**Director: Jamie Milburn   Musical Director: Chris Cherng   Choreographer: Millie Wilkins**

This exceptional production team are preparing for the 2026 Spring Musical  
More information about the show coming will be available this Autumn.

## SPT Committee Members

### Committee Members

Cate Naylor (Chair) [chair@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:chair@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Sandra Miall (Secretary) [secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Sue Gowen (Treasurer) [treasurer@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Graeme Rhodes (Marketing and Publicity) [marketing@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:marketing@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Jess Wilkins (Social Media and Publicity) [socialmedia@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:socialmedia@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Maggie Smith (Productions) [productions@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:productions@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Phil Gowen/Neil Coupland (Facilities Team) [maintenance@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:maintenance@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Committee [c@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:c@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

### Useful emails

Junior and Middle Youth Group [jyg@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:jyg@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Senior Youth Group [syg@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:syg@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Membership [membership@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:membership@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Box Office [boxoffice@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Technical [technical@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:technical@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Wardrobe [wardrobe@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:wardrobe@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Props [props@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:props@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Bookings [bookings@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:bookings@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Maintenance [maintenance@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:maintenance@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

## The 2024/2025 Season

### **And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie**

Dir: Maggie Smith and Cate Naylor

Dates - 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th June 2025

### **Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr.**

Junior and Middle Youth Group

Dates – 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June

### **Two and Romeo and Juliet**

Senior Youth Group

Dates – 11th July 12<sup>th</sup> and 13th July

## 2025/2026 Season

### **Calendar Girls**

Dir: Sharon Young and Sue Gowen

MD: Patrick Naylor

Dates - 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11th October 2025

### **It's a Wonderful Life**

Dir: Derek Lockwood

Dates - 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025

### **Agatha Twisty and the Murder in Panto Land**

Dir: Matt Chishick

MD: Lara Savory

Dates – 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> January x 2, 18<sup>th</sup> January x2 and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> x 2 and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### **The Great British Bake Off**

Dir: Jamie Milburn

MD: Chris Cherng

Choreographer: Millie Wilkins

Dates – 17th, 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

## Board Treader News Items

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

To be sent by 26<sup>th</sup> June to [boardtreader@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:boardtreader@shinfieldplayers.co.uk);