



BOARDREADER

April 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 April's edition of the Boardreader and to a busy month at SPT. Our March play, 'Lilies on the Land' had a successful run and was well received by the audiences. A thought provoking and enjoyable play.

We held our first fund raising event in March; a quiz devised by Jon and Annette Chishick and run very successfully by Matt Chishick. It was a wonderful night with great rounds of questions and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We aim to run another quiz later in the year, so look out for details as it's not to be missed ☺ Unfortunately Jon and Annette were unable to join us on the night. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Our April musical 'Just So' is only a month away and judging by the publicity shots and TikToks, it's going to be a fun show for all the family. The cast are really working hard honing their animal alter-egos and are excited to bring the show to the stage at the end of April.

Rehearsals for 'And Then There Were None' are now well under way and the cast are really enjoying rehearsing and getting into character.... but who did it? You'll have to book your tickets to find out!

The youth groups are also rehearsing hard and looking forward to their summer shows. The Juniors and Middles group will be performing 'Beauty and the Beast Jr' at the end of June and the Seniors, 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Two' in July. More details can be found in this edition.

Our October Musical, 'Calendar Girls' is due to start straight after Just So, and details of the launch and the auditions are in this edition.

The committee is hard at work planning lots of other exciting events and fundraisers at the theatre for this year. We welcome any ideas that you have for fundraising events and socials, so please contact our secretary with any ideas you have.

Have a great Easter and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Cate

Cate Naylor chair@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Buy your Tickets Now for this Fabulous Musical!

Just So

18th, 24th, 25th and 26th April 2025 at 7.45pm and 19th April at 4.00pm



Just look at the energy, fun and enthusiasm for this truly entertaining and heartwarming musical that tells the story of the Elephant's Child's adventure to the Limpopo River. The musical is full of catchy rhythms, comedic moments and great life lessons. Just So is an imaginative story bringing classic stories to life in a fun and comedic way that makes this musical great and enjoyable for an audience of all ages. **Don't miss it! You will have a wonderful night out.**

Robert Billing

We have received the sad news that Robert Billing died at the beginning of March. Robert and his wife Kath were members of the theatre for a few years before the Covid pandemic. Robert was a member of the tech team, running sound for shows and a familiar face backstage at panto time when he set and ran the pyros. We send our condolences to Robert's family.

NODA Report for Lilies on the Land

Please find attached to the email with this edition of BT.

Front of House

Join our team for *Just So*

FOH Manager x 1 to oversee the evening and be a point of contact

Bar Staff x 2 limited to those with completed bar training - training can be organised for anyone not yet trained

Coffee/Tea Server x 1 only required until after the interval

Raffle Ticket & Programme sellers x 2 only required until after the interval

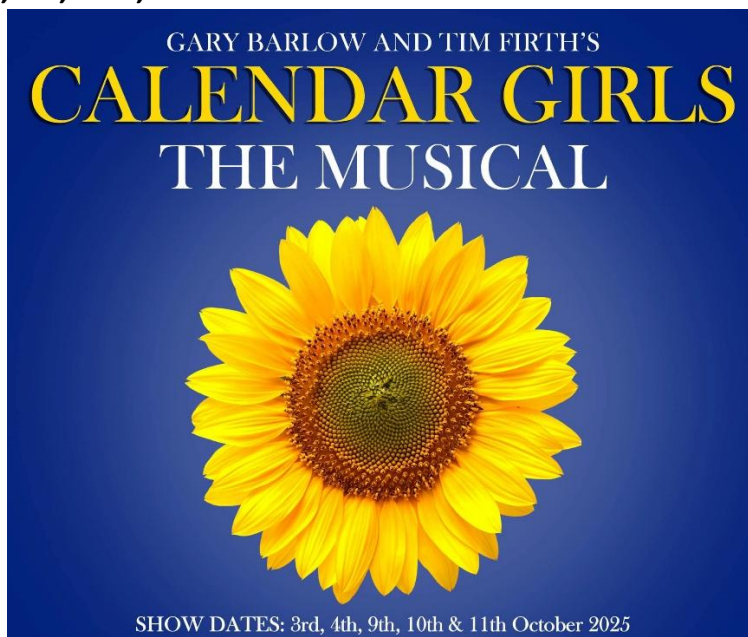
Seat D1 is assigned to FOH for every performance, to act as inside Usher, and will be allocated to a member of the team once all the slots have been filled. We'll try and make sure that over the season everyone gets a chance to do the inside Usher role - unless you don't want to of course!

We know several of you are already involved in the production, but if you are available to support your fellow members for any of these performances, please let us know which you're happy to cover.

If you know anyone who's interested in doing FOH and hasn't seen the Facebook post or received an email from us please feel free to forward on the details and ask them to contact us via our Front of House email address: foh@shinfieldplayers.co.uk and we'll add them on the list for this and future productions.

Calendar Girls

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



We are thrilled to advise that everything you need to know about Calendar Girls and how to audition is now available.

A copy of the Information Pack is attached to this newsletter and you can watch a welcome video from Director, Sharon Young here

<https://youtu.be/p6G0anMpQ40>

We have also created a shared drive, where in the next few weeks, we will be adding a folder for each character with everything you need to prepare for the auditions

[Audition Materials SPT Calendar Girls - Google Drive](#)

For most of the audition songs, we will be using the versions on the original West End soundtrack, which you can find here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2G14DfTgg&list=PLODu7zaPva1Px BavOCqs5KPyfl-xl8mk4&index=1>

When you have decided on which roles you want to go for, please use this online audition form to register your interest

[Calendar Girls Audition Form](#)

Auditions will have a slightly different format than usual and will be in 2 parts:

- Singing Auditions: Monday 12th May 7.30-10.00pm
- Acting Auditions: Sunday 18th May 2.30–5.30pm

If you can't make either / both dates, don't worry we can make other arrangements, but please let us know as soon as possible

Key Dates:

Sunday 4th May 3.00–5.30pm - Launch Event / Read & Singalong

Wednesday 7th May - 7.45-10.00pm: Audition Prep / Drop In

Sunday 11th May – 2.30–5.30pm : Audition Prep / Drop In

Sunday 11th May – Midnight: Audition forms due

Monday 12th May – 7.30-10.00pm Singing Auditions

Sunday 18th May – 2.30–5.30pm: Acting Auditions / Casting

Monday 19th May - 7.45-10.00pm: Cast Welcome and Read Through in character

Join our Calendar Girls WhatsApp group to keep updated

Use the QR code or open this link to join our WhatsApp Group:

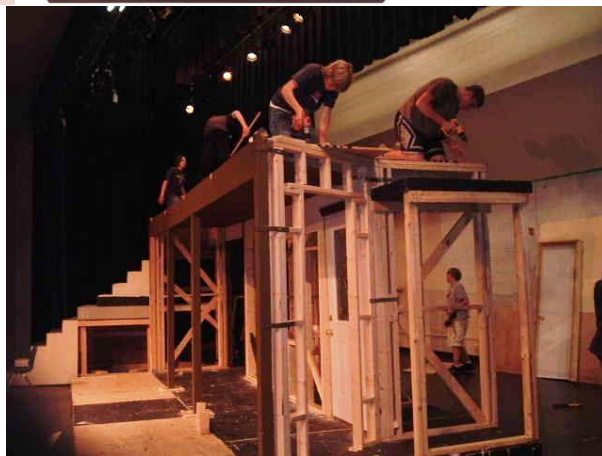
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/L11rlcd4nQH8tf7MypHVS>



Hopefully the Audition Pack, Welcome Video and Launch Event will provide all the information you need. However, if you have any immediate questions, please ask sharon@pearlcatchers.co.uk

Thank you to everyone that has expressed an interest in this show so far and we hope to see loads of you at the **Launch Event on Sunday 4th May.**

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

And Then There Were None

Agatha Christie

4th to 7th 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.

Not one to be missed - Make sure you buy your tickets now!

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

A Night on the Tiles

Fundraising for the Foyer's floor

We are looking to re-vamp the foyer of the theatre and although we can do most of the work independently, there are some items and materials we need to source.

This fund-raising is specifically in place to replace the very tired carpet tiles in the foyer. We don't need to buy new tiles, we only need good condition recycled office tiles.

Our target is only £800 and we have already raised £130. Help us get to our target.

<https://gofund.me/10a5a36c>

Your £1 donation (or more if you wish) will enable us to give the foyer a much-needed refresh and we aim to achieve this before the New Season in September.

Treat your car to a super **CAR WASH**

Monday 5th May 1pm to 3pm



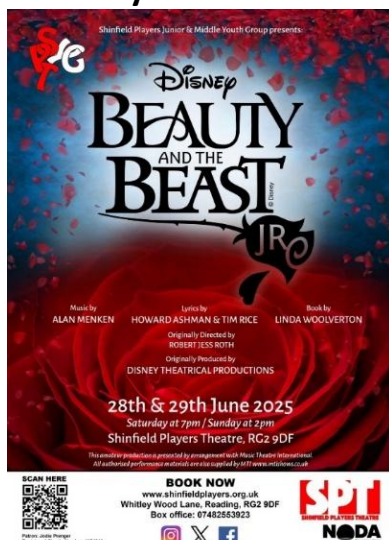
The senior youth group have revised their annual car wash in an aim to raise funds for their summer show. Please come along and support the youngsters!

Junior and Middle Youth Group

Announces their exciting June Show...

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

Facilities up-date

More work has been done to deal with some of the significant building challenges at the theatre:

Roof: We have several leaks, and we have various quotes for the repair work. We will be deciding what we can action now and what may be deferred safely to a later date.

Toilets: This is progressing , a chartered surveyor has been appointed and we have obtained pre-planning permission. More patching of the toilet floors has been done (with many thanks to Steve Toon!).

CCTV: Due to fly tipping (the main reason we are getting cctv), there is now partial cctv coverage and the installation is continuing. No trespassing and no fly tipping signs have been put up.

Electrical work: Essential work has been done on dressing room toilet lights, outside lights and some other areas that were faulty. Portable Appliance Testing (basic test of cables and electrical items) is nearly finished. Only one area to go now. This is long overdue as it has not been done for a number of years.

Security alarm update: Key holders will know that we have updated the alarm system which now notifies the committee if triggered.

Pot holes: Car park pot holes have been filled. Undoubtedly they may re-appear but they are now much better.

Fire training: More Fire Warden training has been done. Can all members make sure they have watched the members training video which is on the web site. It includes basic safety and conduct information.

The building, checks and maintenance take a lot of work. If you can spare time to help out, even if you have limited DIY skills, please get in touch. We will be happy for any help, admin, opening up the theatre for appointments for a tradesperson, doing some checks etc. if you have professional skills, also let us know! We are lucky to have our own theatre so please come and support us.

Many thanks to all those who helped on our very successful outside clear day.

Maintenance and Facilities Team

maintenance@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Tidy Mornings



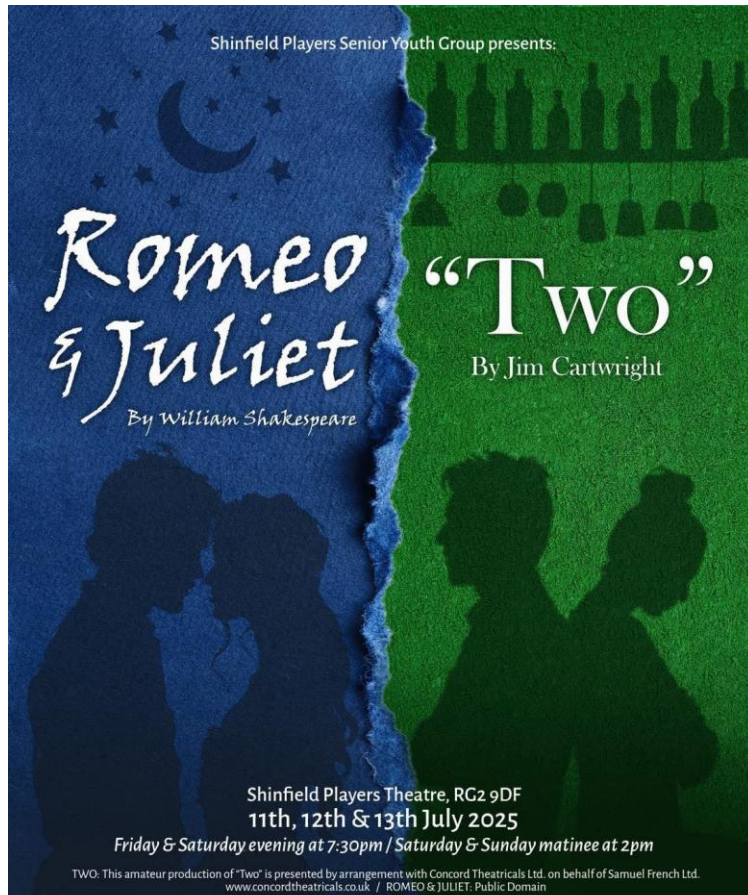
We are planning 2 more tidy mornings (a few hours 9.30am to 12.30) for the outside – please come along to help :

Outside of theatre clean - **10th May 2025**

Outside woodwork paint (window/door frames etc) - **20th September**

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

Friday 11th July, 7.30pm, Saturday 12th, 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.

Introducing Your Technical Team

...Just one at a time!

Matt Chishick



I have been a member of Shinfield Players Theatre since the mid 90's, starting as a member off the cast for Ruddigore.

I took a short break from active participation at the Theatre during which I studied Marine Zoology at the University of Wales, Bangor and started work in software implementation. During this time, I was still a regular visitor to the Theatre as my parents and siblings were still active members.

Around 2012 I was asked to support the lighting team and started learning the ropes. After a few Pantomimes and plays I was hooked and quickly became the lighting operator for almost every show.

In 2018 I decided to step back on to the stage with my first play, My In-laws are Outlaws and playing Sir Bedevere in Spamalot. Since then, I have alternated between supporting off-stage, performing and even directing, as well as being a member of the committee.

Opening Play for Next Season

It's a Wonderful Life

adapted by Mary Elliott Nelson

19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd 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 it 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: 22nd, 24th and 27th July

Show dates: 19th to 22nd 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

Introducing the Production Team for the 2026 Spring Musical

The Great British Bake Off Musical!

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

Information about the show coming Autumn 2025.



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

Planning for Future Shows!

Would you like to direct?

We are looking for a Directors for the future.

We welcome all ideas from new Directors and those with experience.

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

Contact productions@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

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

The 2024/2025 Season

Just So

Dir: Jamie Milburn

MD: Christopher Cherg

Dates - 18th, 19th, 24th, 25th and 26th April 2025

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 – 28th and 29th June

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

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

The Great British Bake Off

Dir: Jamie Milburn

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

The next committee meeting is to be held on **April 30th2025**.

Board Treader News Items

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

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