



# BOARDREADER

## August 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

And so, we come to the end of another season, and what a successful season it has been! Well, done to everyone involved, be it on stage, backstage, or front of house, we couldn't do what we do without you all.

Although, we don't have any shows over the summer, the theatre is not closed as we have rehearsals for our October musical Calendar Girls on-going throughout the summer. There is also the opportunity to come along to auditions and get involved in the November play It's a Wonderful Life, and details are in this edition.

The summer is also the chance for our wonderful backstage team to do all those important jobs needed to get us ready for next season's set builds. Please do come along and help on any of the dates below. Any time you can offer, even just an hour will be greatly appreciated.

- We have a working weekend planned for the **16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> August** when we will be decorating and refreshing the foyer ready for it to be re-carpeted.
- There is also the opportunity to come along on Sunday the **10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August** between 10.30 and 2.00 to help with general backstage tasks. Sam and the backstage team look forward to welcoming you for the summer jobs and to join them for set building for next year.

Our AGM and "Shinnies" will be held on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September**. These events are an opportunity to hear about what has been going on at the theatre both on stage and behind the scenes and to celebrate our achievements and all our productions from the last season. We currently have vacancies on committee, and I encourage you to think about getting involved. Information about how to stand for committee is below.

All that is left for me to say is, have a good summer and we look forward to seeing you at our shows and events next season.

Cate

**Cate Naylor**

**Chair, Shinfield Players Theatre**

Come and audition on Sunday 3rd August at 6.00pm for:

## It's a Wonderful Life

19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025



🎄🌟 It's a Wonderful Life – and it's going to be a wonderful Autumn play! All ready for Christmas. 🌟🎄

We're bringing this heartwarming classic 'It's a Wonderful Life' to the stage, and YOU could be a part of it! Whether you're dreaming of stepping into the spotlight or just want to see what it's all about, come along to our audition - everyone's welcome!

No experience? No problem! We're looking for a range of characters and all levels of enthusiasm. Don't miss your chance to be part of something magical this autumn. Save the date and come along – it wouldn't be wonderful without you! 🎁

Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from September to November and optionally Thursdays in August.

If you can't make Sunday evening or would like more information contact Derek Lockwood by email on [lockwoodderek@hotmail.com](mailto:lockwoodderek@hotmail.com)

### Cast of Main Characters:

George Bailey – (Lead Role) - 303 lines  
Clarissa Odbody – Angel therefore ageless – 86 lines  
Uncle Billy – 75 lines  
Mary Bailey (Nee Hatch) - 68 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

**We need you help! – Please come along to the**

## **SPT Working Weekends 2025**

**16th and 17th August**

### **The Foyer Refresh**

For this working weekend of 16th & 17th, we are aiming to refresh the Foyer and all it needs is some time and labour. So please come along and help us freshen up our lovely theatre to see us through next season.

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.

This is a social weekend to meet up with fellow members for plenty of fun and some work. 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.

Pete Ashton, [foh@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto: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.

**We look forward to seeing you!**

## **AGM on the 4<sup>th</sup> September**

Shinfield Players Theatre AGM will be held at the theatre on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September doors open at 7 for a start at 7.30pm. Open to all members and friends of SPT, although only paid-up members may vote (membership year 2025-2026). Official notifications and invitations will be sent out this week, if you do not receive one they can be downloaded from the members area on the website, or email [secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk). Running the theatre takes a diverse mix of individuals with all sorts of skills as well as those who are just willing to muck in!

If you would like to join the committee, nomination forms will be sent out along with the invitation, but if you would like to talk to anyone on the committee about what is involved first, you will find our contact details at the bottom of the BT.

## **New Membership Portal**

We have launched a new membership system under the membermojo portal to handle all current, new and renewing memberships. The annual membership runs from 1<sup>st</sup> August until the 31<sup>st</sup> July of each year, links will be sent out to all members imminently to renew your memberships for the coming year, and the link on the website has been updated.

This site will allow us to take credit card payments for membership, will automatically remind you to renew your membership each year, and generally make managing our membership database a whole lot easier, plus also help us to ensure our compliance with GDPR guidelines.

If anyone has any questions about it, please email [secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

## **Join the Heart of Shinfield Players Theatre: Stand for the Committee!**

Do you love Shinfield Players Theatre and want to make a real difference behind the scenes? Now's your chance! The SPT committee keeps our productions running, our events inspiring, and our community connected, and we are looking for people to join us. Whether you're passionate about planning, organising, marketing, managing finances, or simply bringing people together, there's a place for you on the team.

Each member of the committee has a role and a job to do and this year, areas that we need to develop and build on are planning our productions and artistic direction, managing the building and making the very best of all our resources, administration and fundraising. At the first meeting after the AGM, we will look at the skills and experience within the committee and allocate roles to new members so that they can get fully involved and thrive within the team.

Being on the committee isn't just about meetings – it's about shaping the future of our theatre, supporting local talent, and helping create unforgettable experiences for audiences and performers alike. It's rewarding, collaborative, and full of opportunities.

If you care about our theatre and want to play a part in its continued success, please consider joining us.

To find out more, contact Cate our Chair on [chair@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:chair@shinfieldplayers.co.uk) or fill out the nomination form attached to this month's BT.

## Youth Groups

You may remember from last month's edition that due to his family commitments, Jamie Milburn will no longer be able to be a Junior and Middle Youth Group leader for the time being.

Thank you to the couple of people who have shown interest in ensuring the group continues. We are happy to report that the group will now be able to continue running the group in September.

However we are keen to get more people involved to help plan for the future and ensure that the demands on those involved are not too great. We are still looking for volunteers interested in helping to run or support the group on a weekly basis, as well as ad hoc support. Below are the ways that you could offer to help, either permanently or on an occasional basis:

♥ 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.

The Junior and Middle Youth group meets on a Wednesday evening (term time only) generally from 6 till 7.30 pm. If you would like to get involved but cannot make the 6pm start we are still interested in hearing from you.

If you would like to get involved or to discuss how you could help then please contact Lara (ldsavory@gmail.com or 07968 534714) 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

## Fundraising for SPT

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

### Raising money for the refresh of the Foyer

There is 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>

There are also two organisations below that can help. If you put Shinfield Players Theatre, charity number 1154841in 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 😊

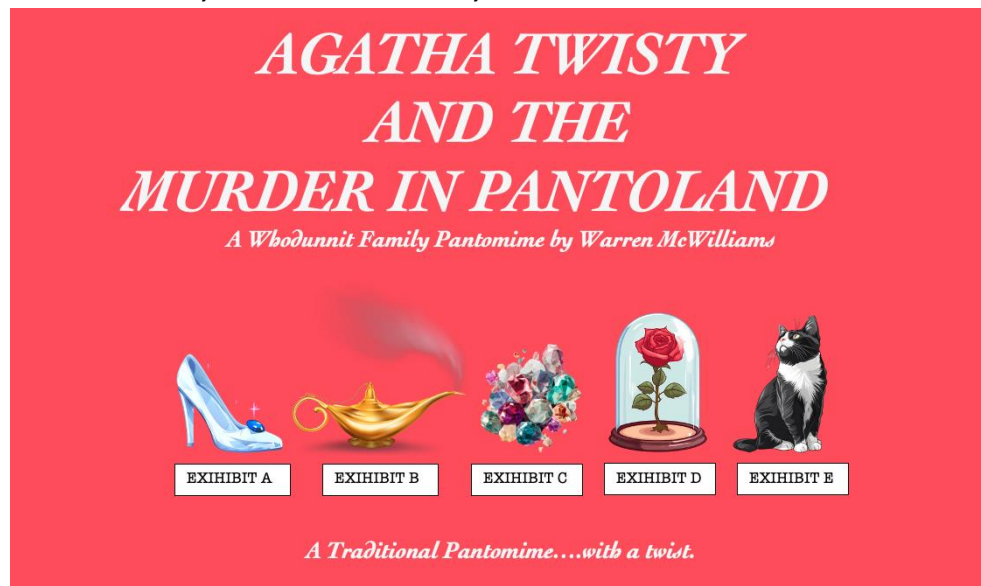
### EasyFundRaising <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>

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.

Read Throughs, Auditions and Lots of Fun for

## 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



### Dates for the Diary:

**Intro Evening** – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**Auditions** – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025

**Show Dates** - 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 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!

## 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).

# Hocus Jokus – Comedy and Magic Evening Comes to SPT

October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.45pm



We are delighted to be bringing a new type of show to SPT with an evening of magic and comedy being presented and compered by local entertainer – Dan Hudson. Dan is a hugely experienced performer (and member of the Magic Circle) who has been delivering solo entertainment shows and multi-performer evenings for both the public and corporate markets over many years.

Following an agreement to a revenue sharing model to support our fund-raising plans, Dan will be bringing his Hocus Jokus magic and comedy show to Shinfield Players Theatre on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> including a talented line-up of professional performers with a UK, international and stage and TV pedigree.

<p>Richard Pinner</p>	<p>Katherine Rhodes</p>	<p>Max Fulham</p>

The show will start at 7.45 with an interval during the acts and a full bar available. Tickets are a highly competitive £20 and available via Ticket Source from early-August.

## Workshops

Do you own a sander? Is it feeling unloved and under used? Well, it's your lucky day! We need you and your sander to come and hang out at the

theatre for some great sanding opportunities. We've got walls, skirting, door frames and fiddly bits that are all in need of a good sanding down. You can even work out in the sunshine to do some sanding.

Are you a great actor? Then do we have an opportunity for you. This will be a great time to build on those skills you have as you learn to act like a tradesperson. You will get to use power tools and manual tools and perform with confidence as you build your role.

We will even put you into a real-life working environment to make and fix things with these new-found skills so you can act your way through the performance and keep you on track for those future award ceremonies The Tony's , the BAFTAs, the Shinnies and the Oscars.

For either or both of these fabulous opportunities then make sure you act fast and contact Pete Ashton to make your bookings. There are various times and dates over the coming weeks.

Email: [pete\\_t\\_ashton@hotmail.com](mailto:pete_t_ashton@hotmail.com)

Tel: 07810 436629 (please do leave a VM if not answered)

Or WhatsApp on the same number.

**And remember it's not all about having that lead role but taking part.**

## **Planning for Future Shows!**

### **Would you like to direct?**

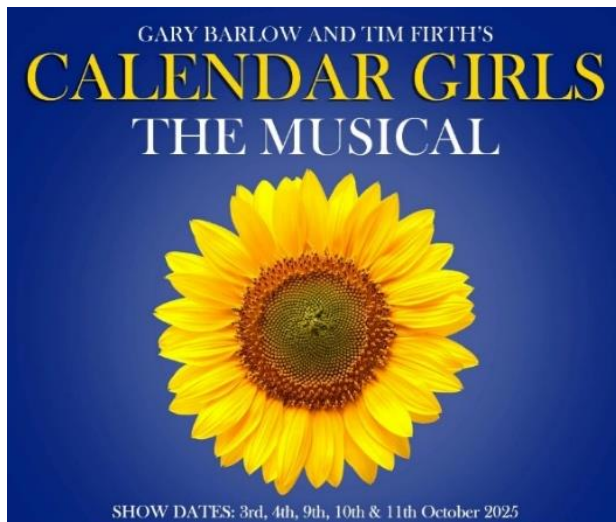
We are looking for a Directors for the 2026/2027 season. We welcome all ideas from new Directors and those with experience.

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)

## **Calendar Girls**

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

## 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](mailto:costumes@shinfieldplayers.co.uk);

**Props**

Graham Smith and Teddy Mercury [props@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:props@shinfieldplayers.co.uk);

## 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)

Front of House [foh@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:foh@shinfieldplayers.co.uk);

Costumes [costumes@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:costumes@shinfieldplayers.co.uk);

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

## 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

**A Bunch of Amateurs**

Dir: Lucy Bolton

Dates – 4th, 5th, 6th, 7<sup>th</sup> March 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 September Board Treader.

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