



BOARDREADER

February 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 February's edition of the Board Treader and we have a lot to report this month. Our pantomime *Sleeping Beauty* has just finished its run and a lot of fun was had by all. It was good to see the audiences enjoying the show and the camaraderie in the cast was a joy to behold. As some of you know, this pantomime is to be the last production that Carol and Graham Vockins direct and produce and after over 30 years working hard for the theatre, they are leaving and taking a break. Over this time, they have directed a huge number of productions and made very many friends, and I know they will be missed. I'm sure though that we will see them again here at SPT and we look forward to welcoming them back.

Our March play *Lilies on the Land* is well under way with rehearsals. Director Linda is very excited to be bringing this historical play about the World War II land girls to the stage as the Saturday performance falls on International Women's Day. We hope you will join us.

Auditions are being held this week for our April musical *Just So* following some well attended and successful preview nights. Break a leg to all who are auditioning.

This month there are read throughs and auditions for the Agatha Christie play, *And Then There Were None*.

Coming up later in the season, we have the youth group shows; *Beauty and the Beast Jr*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Two*. More details can be found in this edition.

The committee is hard at work planning next year's season and adding in lots of other exciting events at the theatre. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Cate Naylor

Cate Naylor

chair@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Don't Forget to Buy your tickets now and see our very own Lilies on the Land.

A powerful, funny and moving play...

Lilies on the Land

5th - 8th March 2025



Hi everyone,

International Women's Day is on 8th March and it's a fantastic time to be able to celebrate the lives of these women who grew food for the country during the Second World War without any recognition.

We need some help please for Lilies of the land. It's a fabulous play about 4 land girls, written from their reminiscences. We're a small cast of 4 and so our ticket selling ability is not massive.

So please please would you share all posts you see on Face Book or wherever. Also tell all your friends/ relatives about it.

Thank you so much.

Linda

4 TICKETS FOR THE PRICE OF 3!

Grab yourself 4 tickets for the price of 3 for the opening night of 'Lilies on the Land' (Wed 5th March 2025)

Book early to get your favourite seats! <https://www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk/booktickets>

Simply put 4 tickets in your basket for the opening night of Lilies on the Land on 5th March and it will be discounted at the checkout

Front of House

We would like to thank Carol and Graham Vockins for the many years of service they have given to the theatre running front of house and wish them a good rest.

We are pleased to welcome Pete and Heidi Ashton as our new front of house co-ordinators, and they will be starting in the role in February. If you would like to get involved either with front of house or with running the bar, please send an email to foh@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Cate Naylor

Cate Naylor

chair@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Key Date - tomorrow!

Just So

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

Don't Miss

2nd Feb 12:00-16:00

Main singing and lib auditions

3rd Feb 19:30-22:00

First rehearsal

There's no harm in asking so if you have any questions please do ask. No questions are silly questions.

Jamie Milburn - Director jamiemilburn08@gmail.com – 07817750339



Shinfield Players Theatre
by arrangement with CAMERON MACKINTOSH LTD
presents
STILES and DREWE'S

JUST SO

Music by GEORGE STILES Book and Lyrics by ANTHONY DREWE
Inspired by the Stories of RUDYARD KIPLING

18th, 19th, 24th, 25th & 26th April 2025
Performances start at 7.45pm, Shinfield Players Theatre RG2 9DF

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Musical Theatre International.
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk

SCAN HERE

BOOK NOW
www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk
Whitley Wood Lane, Reading, RG2 9DF
Box office: 07482553923

SPT
SHINFIELD PLAYERS THEATRE

noda
A Musical Theatre International Production

Patron: Julie Pronger
Registered Charity Number: 1158841

There are so many wonderful roles in this truly fun, heart-warming 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.

Most of the cast will be animals at some point throughout the production but don't expect animal onesies or the cast to be running around "on all fours" throughout the performance... all of the cast are "human" in design but mimicking animal traits, colours and their personalities...

It's an imaginative story bringing the classic stories to life in a fun and comedic way that makes this musical great and enjoyable for an audience of all ages.

QR code to Just So Google Drive Folder:



The Just So Information Pack is in the folder which includes brief character outlines, key characteristics and audition information. The Google Drive is setup by folder so all named cast and ensemble each have a folder which contains relevant libs and sheet music for auditions.

Links rather than QR code listed below:

Folder: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1m_jQj4bDvGF5fUGUrUAW2P-SokTOW08i

Information pack:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bOS_zgucEMg8BmDSK4fsxaX_7hQTdC3U1KDvOaQmnHY/edit?usp=drivesdk

Facebook event for launch:

<https://facebook.com/events/s/just-so-previews-and-auditions/887422010261585/>

Looking Forward to Seeing you at the Read Throughs and Auditions for
And Then There Were None

Agatha Christie

4th to 7th June



A dark thriller and one of Christie's darkest tales. A masterpiece of dramatic construction, its growing sense of dread and unfaltering tension will keep you guessing to the very end.

Ten strangers are summoned to a remote island. All that the guests have in common is a wicked past they're unwilling to reveal and a secret that will seal their fate. For each has been marked for murder. As the weather turns and the group is cut off from the mainland, they are murdered, one by one, in accordance with the lines of a sinister nursery rhyme.

Directors: Maggie Smith and Cate Naylor

Read Throughs: 15th February at 2.00pm and 17th February at 7.30pm

Auditions: 24th February at 7.30pm and 27th February at 7.30pm

Cast breakdown: 8 male and 3 female parts:

- Fred Narracot, Boatman, short role, 40s- 60s
- Anthony James Marston, 20s-30s
- Thomas Rogers, the butler 30s-60s
- Ethel Rogers, the cook/housekeeper 30s-60s
- General John Gordon MacKensie, retired 60 plus
- Emily Caroline Brent, pious spinster, 50s -60s
- Edward George Armstrong, a Doctor mid 40s – 60s
- William Henry Blore, private investigator, 30s -50s
- Captain Philip Lombard, 20s-40s
- Vera Elizabeth Claythorne, secretary, 20s–30s
- Sir Lawrence John Wargrave, a retired judge 50s to 60s

There is some flexibility on ages!

Book yourself in for a great night out at the

Quiz Night

March 15th

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 of 4 to 6 people.

£5.00 for members

£5.50 for non-members

Eunice Daphne Denny 1933 -20025

The Theatre was saddened to receive the news that Eunice had passed away. Born on 28th September 1933, to Leonard and Kathleen Naish in St Peter's Road Earley. She was a founding member, along with Harry and Ada Cook, Ken and Josie Stanley, Den and Lilian Kirby, Horace and Esme Maynard back in the early 1970's. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to these pioneers who have left us the legacy that is The Shinfield Players. I succeeded Eunice as the Theatre Licence holder in the 1980's a role she fulfilled as well as at various times taking the roles of Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and performer.

As I only met Eunice for a few brief years, I asked her son for more information, and I am grateful for these photographs and for permission to use the eulogy which he wrote for her funeral.

I have expressed the Theatre's sincere condolences to Douglas, her son.

Graham Vockins

Eunice Daphne Denny, a woman of adventure, compassion, and extraordinary resilience. Eunice's journey took her across continents, through the wilderness of Kenya, the camaraderie of Shinfield Players, and the joys of her garden and family. Her life was rich with stories and love, leaving behind memories that will be cherished forever.



A Legacy of Love and Adventure

Eunice Daphne Denny lived a life rich in adventure, creativity, and love. Whether stroking wild cheetahs, performing on stage, or nurturing a garden, she approached every moment with enthusiasm and courage. She leaves behind a legacy of resilience, warmth, and a deep love for life's wonders, big and small. Loving her grandchildren Rachel, Lottie and Jemima.

Douglas Kilburn- Denny

Sleeping Beauty DVD

Sleeping Beauty 2025 recording is available Dvd £15, Blue Ray £16 and USB stick £18 must include email address for USB.

Order from graham.v@ntlworld.com payment on delivery .

NODA Report for Sleeping Beauty

is attached to this Board Treader email

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.

Tidy Mornings



We are planning 3 tidy mornings (a few hours) for the outside – please come along to help :

Outside leaf clearance / tidy morning - **15th February 2025 9.30am-12.30**

Outside of theatre clean - **10th May 2025 9.30am-12.30**

Outside woodwork paint (window/door frames etc) - **20th September 2025 9.30am-12.30**

Housekeeping

Fridges

Due to escalating energy costs, we are going to only keep one fridge on in the theatre during non-performance times. There is a fridge/freezer which is on in the green room, and it does not make economic sense to keep another fridge freezer on in the coffee shop just for milk.

The fridge in the coffee shop will be kept switched off during non-show times. The idea is to swap it with the smaller unused fridge in the green room and switch it on during show times.

Please label any items in the Green room fridge and please do not use other people's items not marked for general use.

Maintenance Team Update

There are now three committee members looking after the maintenance and health and safety aspects of the theatre.

We want to reassure you that we have undertaken a huge amount of work investigating, getting quotes, meeting tradespeople, confirming work etc. The works are starting very soon and we will keep you informed.

The Building

Toilets

We have several challenges with the infrastructure of the building.

Throughout the autumn, we have had assessments and surveys from loss adjusters, contractors and a Buildings Surveyor. We are still awaiting the outcome, but we are facing significant costs.

We have temporarily “made good” some of the floors (MASSIVE thanks to Steve Toon and others from backstage who have been fantastic in helping with this!).

Furniture store

The furniture store roof is failing and will need a complete rebuild. We have received quotes for the work and this is a further cost that we are facing.

Asbestos

In older buildings like ours there is often old asbestos and it is usually safe to be around unless disturbed. It is a legal requirement to have a register of asbestos in the building, so we commissioned a full asbestos survey.

We now have the asbestos register and asbestos areas have been signed in line with good practice. We have quotes for work to two areas and will consider complete removal in the future.

CCTV

There has been a lot of fly tipping, items removed from car park, and trespassers found in the car park recently and as such we are in the process of installing cctv to the perimeter of the theatre/entrance points and in the bar (due to the safe/storage of alcohol).

We are also planning to upgrade the burglar alarm, so we can check cctv if an alarm is activated. There is no cctv in confidential areas like dressing rooms and the cctv is compliant with UKGDPR and we are registered with the Information Commissioners Office for cctv and we have established an information governance policy, with appropriate governance.

Car Park

We are planning to mark up the car park with parking spaces and disabled parking. This will probably be done when good weather comes.

Can You Help!???

We need more people to help with maintenance and facilities. If you have skills and would like to help – please let us know!

If you have professional trades skills (and are insured/indemnified) – please let us know!

If you have no formal skills but can spare some time – please let us know!

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Introducing Your Technical Team

...Just one at a time!

Phil Gowen



I first started dabbling in Sound in the late 1980s, recording using a Yamaha and a Fostex 4 track recorder “portastudios”, whilst playing in bands at school.

I played in Bands whilst at university in the 90's and was always interested in sound and recording. This kept my interest in audio and recording.

Over the years I have expanded my knowledge of live audio playing in bands, as well as recording bands and individuals. I play the drums and currently play in 3 bands.

I have specialist interest in digital audio systems with extensive knowledge of the “AES-50” system the theatre uses, as well as the “Dante” digital audio that I use in my home studio where I record.

Along with Steve Townsend, I modernised the sound/lighting/control aspect of the technical function a few years ago with a fully computer controlled, digital system controlled by qlab. And with lower power LED lights.

I play a supportive role to the sound team, as I am spending more time on aspects for the committee such as health and safety and governance aspects, but I can still be found coiling cables and up a ladder, (I do not like ladders at all!).

Planning Next Season's shows!

Would you like to direct?

We are looking for a Directors for next season and beyond.

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 smaggie63@yahoo.com

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 and Neil Coupland (Facilities Team) facilities@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Committee c@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Other 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

Lilies on the Land

Dir: Linda Bostock

Dates - 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th March 2025

Just So

Dir: Jamie Milburn

MD: Christopher Cherng

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

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 **March 12th 2025**

Board Treader News Items

Please email items for the Material for the March Board Treader to be sent by **February 24th** to: boardtreader@shinfieldplayers.co.uk;