



# BOARDREADER

## March 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

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Welcome to March's edition of the Boardreader and to another busy month at the theatre. We held our first clean-up Saturday this month and the merry band of helpers led by Phil and Sue Gowen cleared the carpark of leaves and debris making a few more parking spaces in the process. Rewarded with a pizza lunch, we enjoyed some well-earned social time afterwards. Look out for details of the next sessions coming up this year.

Next week 'Lilies on the Land' will be going into their show week and I wish Linda and her cast all the best for their run. This is a passion project for Linda, and she and her cast have worked hard to bring this play about the World War II land girls to the stage. I have enjoyed seeing the pictures of the cast in their land girl uniforms at a location shoot at MERL. We are excited to welcome the Mayor to the Saturday performance which falls on International Women's Day and look forward to seeing you at the shows.

After successful auditions in February, our April musical 'Just So' is now fully cast and well into rehearsals. The cast are working hard getting into their animal alter-egos and it is developing into a great show.

The auditions for 'And Then There Were None' were held last week, and the cast list is below. Thank you to everyone who came to the auditions. The Youth Group shows are now cast and in rehearsal. 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.

The committee is planning next year's season and lots of other exciting events at the theatre. In this edition, you will find information about some of the shows coming up. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Cate

**Cate Naylor**

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

**Get your tickets for our very own Lilies on the Land!  
Don't miss this powerful, funny and moving play...**

## **Lilies on the Land**

**6th - 8th March 2025**



**Helen, Linda, Lucy and Benita** give you an insight into lives on the farm during the second world war and tell their stories with humour as well as horror. Expecting sunny days in the fresh air happily tossing hay (that the recruitment posters had promised), they were rudely awakened to the realities of life on the land.

### **The question is how would you cope?**

- Shut in a barn surrounded by rats
- Having to use a hole in the middle of field as a toilet
- Dealing with unpleasant farmers and unwanted attentions from insistent men
- Being knee deep in pig shit or slimy mud
- Spending long hours in back-breaking hoeing and planting

Our Lilies tell how they managed to survive their exposure to a new and strange life and how they supported each other and grew strong. Their frozen hands were warmed between the cow's udders and they found strength to deliver a calf, transformed with joy at the miracle of birth. This play will make you laugh, occasionally make you cry, and you cannot help but leave the theatre with admiration for the courage and fortitude of this 'forgotten army'. This funny and moving production is a fitting tribute to the girls who kept wartime Britain fed.

### **4 TICKETS FOR THE PRICE OF 3 for Opening Night**

Thursday 6th March 2025

Book 4 tickets for the opening night on 6<sup>th</sup> March and it will be discounted at the checkout.

<https://www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk/booktickets>

Sign up for a great evening at our **Quiz Night**  
March 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

If you'd like to come along then please email: [secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto: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>;

## **Front of House**

### **An invitation to join our team**

Pete and Heidi Ashton are our new front of house co-ordinators, and they would like you to join the front of house volunteers.

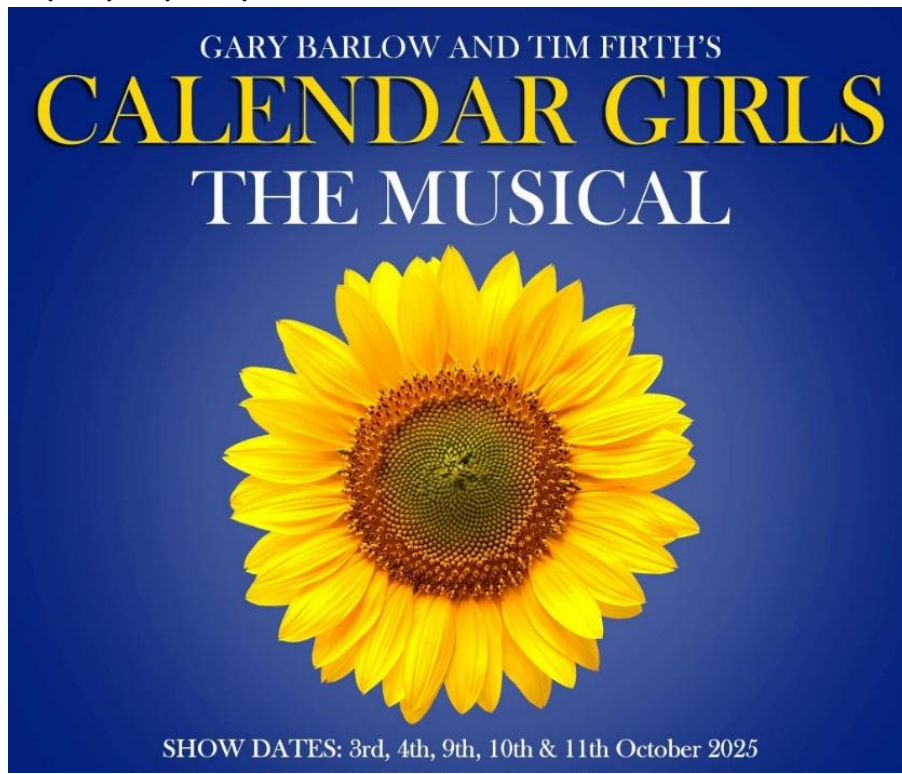
One evening helping behind the bar, selling raffle tickets, selling programmes, checking tickets or behind the coffee bar makes all the difference. We value your help!

If you would like to get involved with front of house, please send an email to [foh@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:foh@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

**Announcing Our Opening Musical for Next Season**

## **Calendar Girls**

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



We are very excited to present Calendar Girls on the Shinfield stage this October.

The death of a much-loved husband prompts a group of ordinary women in a small Yorkshire Women's Institute to do an extraordinary thing. Blasting away all preconceptions of what it is to be in a Women's Institute, they decide to do an artistic nude calendar to raise money for charity.

Upturning preconceptions is a dangerous business and none of them expect the emotional and personal ramifications, but gradually the making of the fabulous and funny calendar brings each woman unexpectedly into flower.

But don't think this is just a play for middle aged women. There are also 5 great male roles, 3 teenagers, plus ensemble (of all ages) creating the community of Knapely.

Shinfield regulars will already be familiar with the work of Tim Firth whose shows include Our House and The Safari Party, as well as Kinky Boots. Gary Barlow is best known for Take That, but he also wrote the music and lyrics to Finding Neverland prior to collaborating with Tim on this musical version of Calendar Girls.

The true story of the Calendar Girls launched a global phenomenon, a million copycat calendars, a record-breaking movie, stage play and this musical which coined the term "craughing" - the act of crying and laughing at the same time.

With unforgettable songs, every performance continues to add to the millions already raised for charity and prove that there is no such thing as an ordinary woman.

This heartwarming show will be produced by the same team that brought you our super-successful pantomime Snow White and the Four Swedish Popstars:

**Director and Choreographer - Sharon Young**

**Musical Director - Patrick Naylor**

**Producer and Assistant Director - Sue Gowen**

*Sharon told us "I am delighted to be working with everyone at Shinfield again on a show that is very close to my heart. I was Ruth in the play version over 10 years ago and have loved the musical since it was released. It is a beautiful story with plenty of laughs and tears along the way and I can't wait to work with such a talented team to bring it to life."*

*Patrick says "I am hugely excited to be involved! It is going to be such fun and very rewarding for all involved in bringing a great story to the stage along with Gary Barlow's music - a genius songsmith."*

**Key Dates:**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March: Information Pack / Welcome Video Published**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 3.00–5.30pm - Launch Event / Read & Singalong**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May - 7.45-10.00pm: Audition Prep / Drop In**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May – 2.30–5.30pm : Audition Prep / Drop In**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May – Midnight: Audition forms due**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May – 7.30-10.00pm Auditions**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May – 2.30–5.30pm: Auditions / Casting**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May - 7.45-10.00pm: Cast Welcome and Read Through in Character**

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](mailto:sharon@pearlcatchers.co.uk)

**Don't Forget to Buy your Tickets Now for this Fabulous Musical**

## **Just So**

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



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 authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI [www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)

**SCAN HERE**  
  
Patron: Julie Pronger  
Registered Charity Number: 1154841

**BOOK NOW**  
[www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk](http://www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk)  
Whitley Wood Lane, Reading, RG2 9DF  
Box office: 07482553923

**SPT**  
SHINFIELD PLAYERS THEATRE  
*noda*  
By Invitation to Amateur Theatre

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

Most of the cast are 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.

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.

Announcing the Cast for  
**And Then There Were None**

Agatha Christie  
4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> June

Shinfield Players Theatre presents:  
**AND THEN THERE WERE NONE**  
BY AGATHA CHRISTIE

4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025  
Performances start at 7:45pm, Shinfield Players Theatre RG2 9DF

Book your tickets here:

This amateur production of "And Then There Were None" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. [www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)

**SPT**  
SHINFIELD PLAYERS THEATRE

Many thanks to all those who came along to the read throughs and auditions. Truly difficult decisions had to be made, and we would like to send many congratulations to those cast for this dark thriller. One of Christie's darkest tales and a masterpiece of dramatic construction, its growing sense of dread and unfaltering tension will keep you guessing to the very end.

**Fred Narracott**  
**Anthony James Marston**  
**Thomas Rogers**  
**Ethel Rogers**  
**General John Gordon MacKenzie**  
**Emily Caroline Brent**  
**Dr Edward George Armstrong**  
**William Henry Blore**  
**Captain Philip Lombard**  
**Vera Elizabeth Claythorne**  
**Sir Lawrence John Wargrave**

**Martyn Washbourne**  
**Martyn Washbourne**  
**Chris Pett**  
**Karen Bird**  
**Brian Nixey**  
**Barbara Richards**  
**Matt Lugg**  
**Dan Walford**  
**Peter Collins**  
**Millie Naylor**  
**Ken Deeks**

**Maggie Smith and Cate Naylor**

# 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



SCAN HERE



Patron: Jodie Prenger  
Registered Charity Number: 1154845

**BOOK NOW**

[www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk](http://www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk)  
Whitley Wood Lane, Reading, RG2 9DF  
Box office: 07482553923



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**

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



**Announcing Our Opening Play for Next Season**

## **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 is a much-loved pre-Christmas tale to warm your heart for the festive season.

Bedford Falls is a small town in a big country. For as long as he can remember, George Bailey has wanted to leave it behind and see the world, make a real difference. Somehow though, he never got the chance. Now, on a cold Christmas Eve, he stands on a snow-clad bridge parapet, looking down into the dark, icy river below. He faces ruin, but perhaps one last sacrifice can salvage some small hope for those he loves.

But kind eyes are watching, and on the edge of tragedy, George is given a divine opportunity to see how his life has changed so many others.

This play is based on the now classic 1946 movie directed by Frank Capra and starring James Stewart and Donna Reed. It's an uplifting, moving story of love, redemption and community.

**Directed by Derek Lockwood**

## Tidy Mornings



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

Outside of theatre clean - **10<sup>th</sup> May 2025 9.30am-12.30**

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

## 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](mailto:productions@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)

## The 2024/2025 Season

### Lilies on the Land

Dir: Linda Bostock  
Dates - 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

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

Junior and Middle Youth Group  
Dates – 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June

## 2025/2026 Season

### Calendar Girls

Dir: Sharon Young, Sue Gowen and 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

## 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)  
The next committee meeting is to be held on **March 12<sup>th</sup>2025**

## Board Treader News Items

Please email items for the Material for the April Board Treader.  
To be sent by **26<sup>th</sup> March** to [boardtreader@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:boardtreader@shinfieldplayers.co.uk);