

April 2019

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 may enjoy socialising, working together and participating in theatre.

From the Chairman

I start this month's newsletter with the sad news that our secretary Martin Wheeler passed away on Saturday 9th March. I had the great pleasure to work with Martin on committee for several years and enjoyed many performances whilst Martin worked quietly and efficiently back stage. He will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him.

Since the last newsletter we have produced 39 Steps which was superb. My congratulations to all involved in the play.

Our next production is in rehearsal, Harvey, another play which is little more of a gentle comedy. Also in rehearsal are the youth group production of The Witches and Legally Blonde. Tickets are available for all of these shows on line.

In this edition you will find details of our "Wednesday Workshops" – an idea of spending an evening learning something new, sing some songs, learn a dance, a play reading or just simply come down to socialise. If you are interested in suggesting or even offering to help, then please contact Lara or one of the committee members. All welcome!

Enjoy the lovely Spring weather and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Gordon

Gordon Bird

MARTIN WHEELER



Martin Howard Wheeler passed away on the 9th March in Madeira aged 59. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends and members of Shinfield Players Theatre.

Martin joined the theatre in 2011 and quickly became a very well respected and valuable member of the back stage crew, building and painting sets with great skill. He also helped with maintenance of the building including the construction of our new store shed. He took on more and more tasks and became a Trustee and Secretary of the society and he instigated the theatre booking calendar, which was so useful and prevented clashes of rehearsals. His quiet and authoritative manner will be greatly missed.

The funeral will take place on Tuesday 9th April 2019 3:30pm at the
BASINGSTOKE CREMATORIUM
Stockbridge Road
North Waltham
Basingstoke
RG25 2BA

Family flowers only please and instead of flowers, we would kindly ask you to make a donation to the lymphoma action charity, <https://lymphoma-action.org.uk/>;
There will be a donation box at the crematorium on the day of the funeral.
Please wear blue, mauve or purple colours and not black.

Enjoy a Meal, a Murder and a Mystery at the

MURDER MYSTERY SUPPER

HOGG'S END

Written By Robert Billing

Saturday 6TH and Sunday 7th April at 7.45pm



Casting and rehearsal for HOGG'S END

Rehearsal Thursday 4th April 7:45 in dressing room.

Carol has some volunteers and welcomes more, particularly MEN.

She hopes to have two casts if possible one for each night

Please mail carol@shinfieldplayers.co.uk:

List of Characters

Sir Tamworth Hogg Bullying, often rude, northern accent preferred

Lady Alexandra Hogg Tamworth's wife, mother to Margaret Hogg, age 10, who is currently away. Well-spoken, polite, but prepared to confront Tamworth. Motive: Wants to marry Moon. **Henry Moon** Runs a pharmacy in the village, Alexandra's lover. Motive: Wants to marry Alexandra.

Samuel Brightman Professional photographer, lives in the village. Has his own laboratory on site. Married to Thora. Motive: Wants Thora to inherit from Tamworth

Thora Brightman, (née Fox). Came to the village as a Land Army girl during the war, but became pregnant by Sir Tamworth. He arranged the marriage to Samuel, and has included her in his will. Motive: Wants to inherit quickly

Giles Barleycorn Farmer, tenant of Tamworth. Motive: Tamworth is raising the rent to a point at which he will lose the farm

Mary Barleycorn Wife of Giles Motive: Wants to stop Tamworth ruining Giles

Inspector William (Bill) Warrener Running the investigation

Announcer BBC voice

The year is about 1950, and in the village of Deeping St Thomas lives Sir Tamworth Hogg, owner of Hogg's Bazaar, a department store in the nearby town of Cokethorpe. Among the other residents of the village live six people who may claim to be his friends, but who all, for different reasons may also be his deadliest enemies. Sir Tamworth drives himself in a Rover 75 P3, and often drinks too much. However this is 1950, mobile phones, forensics, health and safety, and the breathalyser have yet to be invented.

The road from Deeping St Thomas to Cokethorpe has a very sharp bend at Ham Corner, the point where it meets the Steelbourne, a river deep enough for a car or a body to sink to the bottom.

The show can be run with two intervals. The scripted part of the show runs straight through in about 25 minutes. The show will be run on two nights, with a different murderer each time.

Menu

The menu for the supper is:

Chicken Goujons with chips and there is a gluten-free option of grilled chicken breast with chips.

A choice of deserts one of which will be gluten-free / vegetarian.

Please let Carol know in advance carol@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

FIRST AID COURSES

6th and 13th April

We are running first aid courses on 6th and 13th April – all members are welcome and if you are interested please contact Sue, sue@shinfieldplayers.org.uk; there are 6 spaces available on both courses.

Exciting New Programme from 10th April to the end of May - Wednesday workshop and social evenings.

From 10th April through to the end of May (apart from 15th when we hope you will come and support our production of Harvey) we will be holding Wednesday workshop and social evenings for all members and friends.

From 8pm till 10pm the theatre will be open for you to turn up, catch up with friends and members and get involved if you want to. The workshops are intended to be fun and build confidence in different aspects of the theatre. You can join in with as much or little of a workshop as you like – either as a participant or a supporter. Or you can sit in the foyer and have a chat! The bar may even be open if we have some volunteers.

The final programme is still being decided but we hope to include:

- Introduction to lighting and sound
- Building your vocal confidence
- Managing a dance routine without looking petrified
- Improvisation (or 'how to look like you meant to do that')

The first session on the 10th April will focus on singing and will be aimed at everyone who enjoys musicals, regardless of their singing confidence, experience or ability.

We'd also like to introduce people to some shows and plays they might not know through a couple of scenes/songs and maybe even have a singalong of some favourite show tunes.

If you have an idea for something you'd like us to consider, want to get involved in helping to run a session, have a suggestion for a show or song you'd like us to include, have any questions or anything else, please contact Lara (ldsavory@gmail.com).

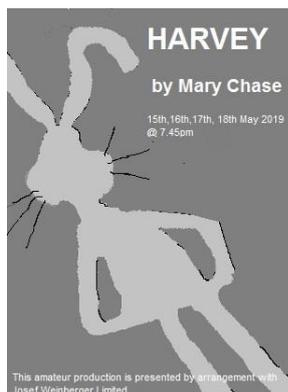
Quiz Night – 8th June at 7.30 pm

A great night out! Get to the theatre early for a prompt start at 7.30 pm.

£6.00 per head and includes a cold buffet supper.

Teams of around six - please put your names on the list in the theatre by June 2nd or let Jon Chishick know by e-mail jon@shinfieldplayers.co.uk or call 0118 9843666.

In the mood for a wonderful heart-warming comedy? Then come along to see Harvey!



HARVEY

by Mary Chase

15th, 16th, 17th and 18th May 2019 at 7.45pm

Harvey is a Pulitzer-prize winning play and is a lively and funny comedy. Elwood P Dowd, a good-natured and charming man is befriended by a playful spirit that takes on the form of a large white rabbit, Harvey.

Harvey is invisible unless he chooses to reveal himself and his close friendship has dramatic effects on Elwood's family and life. Comedy mayhem ensues when they try to commit Elwood to a sanatorium and more than one person sees the fun-loving rabbit.

The play is also a subtle indictment of the mental health industry and at times you wonder if the doctors are in more need of help than their patients. In this screwball comedy, there is a real message of the importance of simple kindness, and it's delivered in a subtle way.

A magical and charming comedy to warm your heart – 'especially those who are rum-pots and crack-pots!'



Something to tweet about? ... A great way to promote the theatre.

Our SPT Twitter account (@SPTReading) is active once again and it was successful in getting a lot of community engagement in 'The 39 Steps'.

If you have a show or other theatre event to promote, a request to make or anything else that you think would help to promote the theatre then please let Lara know any information or pictures you would like shared (rehearsal or other photos are particularly useful)

- ldsavory@gmail.com.

And if you're on Twitter please follow us and retweet our tweets!

NODA review of The 39 Steps

This spoof adaptation of John Buchan's spy novel was; to say the least, absolutely bonkers! There were some super performances from the four cast members who went effortlessly from one character to the next. They revelled in making every one of their 130 characters completely different and delighted the audience with their amusing and entertaining antics. I would like to congratulate the technical team who were absolutely outstanding; I'm sure the director must have been delighted with their efforts.

It was lovely to see such a full house for an opening night; I hope all subsequent houses were as good.

Sam Bessant – This young lady had so much to remember; and I have to say she never faltered, with her Mr Memory being a prime example. Her accents were terrific and she was able to alter the timbre of her voice to highlight the character she was portraying. Everything about her performance was superb; dialogue visuals and movement.

Lydia van Walsem vas Nunes – As Hannay's unwilling accomplice this young lady was great. She was natural sassy and animated. Her dialogue was well intoned with good diction and projection. As the German agent her accent was well maintained and did not detract from the dialogue. She had easy movement and her subsequent death well depicted

Mark Read – Playing out the role of Richard Hanney this actor was a knockout! His dialogue was lively energetic and dynamic and his visuals expressive which reflected in his characterisation. He brought out all the humour of the script with excellent timing and furtive glances.

Ian Head – This actor had a variety of characters to portray and he did this effortlessly ensuring each one was diverse and contrasting. Dialogue and visuals were vital and spirited and deportment varied according to the character. I must say he wears a skirt and twin set extremely well!

Adam H. Wells – (Dictator) – Adam created a fast paced humorous and entertaining piece of theatre that the audience enjoyed from the off. He had given clear direction on how the characters should be portrayed encouraging them to appear as caricatures which worked famously. I was impressed with his use of the pregnant pause and the way he got the actors to engage with the audience. His staging was superb with well contrived entrances and exits good spacing and groupings and no upstaging or masking. There were some lovely touches throughout which enhanced the overall feel and look of the play. I particularly enjoyed the escape through the window the moving armchair and the face at the window. The use of the back projection was inspired and I so enjoyed the start with the silhouette of Hitchcock.

Caroline White – (Translator/PA to the Dictator) – This young lady had done a sterling job in making sure the performance ran smoothly from start to finish. She clearly worked well with the director and carried out everything he asked of her.

Sam Turner – (Backstage Commandant) – This SM ran a tight ship ensuring the crew made timely changes and the cast had free access to the wings. Curtains were pulled promptly which made certain that the action kept moving.

Sam Turner/Di Capel – (Lead Architects) – assisted by **Masons/Labourers/Interior Decorators** this simplistic set comprising of a couple of flats one incorporating a window had been ideally thought through; it worked extremely well for the plot. The boxes which became a train, reception desk, car and many other things were totally fitting and easily manoeuvrable.

Maddie Miles/Caroline White/Sarah Beth Lockwood/Steve Toone – (Minions) – This team worked their socks off! There were so many scene changes which they accomplished effortlessly often covered by appearing as police officers blowing whistles and making chase. They became windows picture frames and casual bystanders handing out personal props; all very ingenious. I must say it was nice to see that the whole team wore black which I have noted is not always the case anymore.

Debbie Wheeler/Graham Smith/Rachel Lockwood – (Accessory Accumulators) – The many props had been well collated and were appropriate for their use.

Carol Vockins/Lorraine Willis – (Ladies Maids to the cast) – Costumes were great; with the cast dressed in black and then putting on coats, hats, kilts, frocks and night attire to represent the varied characters worked brilliantly.

Matt Chishick – (Illumination Creator and Button Pusher) – There were some superbly effective moments; the spot focused on the dead body and the strobe as Hannay made his escape are just a couple of the most memorable. The back projections were great and cued perfectly.

Sarah Beth Lockwood – (Noise Immersion Artist) – My goodness what a plethora of sound effects this technician had to deal with. There were just too many to mention; however each one was cued to perfection and I have to say none more so than the door opening and closing allowing us to hear snippets of the party music.

Lizzy Lam/Caroline White – (Iconographers) – The coloured photos were clear and well defined and added greatly to the overall look of the programme.

Alessia Nawell – (Doodler) – By doodler do we mean programme? This was well laid out on good quality paper with the use of a good size font. I liked the white writing on the black background it looked effective and was easy to read. The informal captions and technical descriptions were amusing as were the cast biographies.

Rachel Lockwood – (Prodder/Mediator/Committee Spy) – I have no idea what job Rachel actually did; however whatever it was I'm sure she did it brilliantly
Thank you

Jet

Jeanette Maskell - NODA Representative - London Region - Area 13

Stage Crew

We continue to need your help so please come along and join us on Tuesday evenings and on Sundays. We are now starting work on the set for Harvey. All are welcome and it is fun to be part of this great team.

Call for Actors...

A short, traditional Mummers Play from Whitley, Wednesday, 3rd July, 6.30pm at Shinfield View

This play lasts around 8 minutes and is part of the 950th Anniversary Celebration of St Mary's Church, Shinfield. The evening of 3rd July incorporates historic and traditional entertainments and should be embraced as part of local Berkshire history and the Shinfield community. Shinfield Players were involved in the celebrations of the church's 900th anniversary.

The Mummers plays are a central part of dramatic history and rural life. They were performed for centuries and a few continue to this day. This one originates from Whitley and was being performed until relatively recently. It includes many sword fights with simple comedy and should be good fun. The strangest sight is probably Father Christmas appearing in the middle of the summer!

7 characters:

Father Christmas – 35 lines

King George – 26 lines

Doctor – 20 lines

Twingtwang – 16 lines

Bold Roamer – 14 lines

Turkish Knight – 7 lines

Mazzant Binnit – 7 lines

The play will be performed at Shinfield View and the evening opens at 6.30pm with the Shinfield Singers, followed by a short Morris dance by the Shinfield Shambles. The Mummers play is next and finally some more Morris dancing. There will be Pimms served in the lovely garden.

If you are interested, please contact Maggie Smith on maggie@shinfieldplayers.co.uk; There will be two rehearsals only and one evening working on costume.

Decorating Party and BBQ Weekends 3rd/4th August and 10th/11th August



This summer come along and join the decorating parties. There will be music, BBQ on the Saturday evenings, and the bar will be open.

We are spending two weekends decorating the auditorium and the foyer so that the theatre looks smart and fresh for our new season.

Many hands make light work – so come along, have fun and join in for the day or just for one hour.

All are welcome...look forward to seeing you.

JUNIOR & MIDDLE YOUTH GROUP NEWS

This year the Junior and Middle Youth Group will be performing

The Witches

by Roald Dahl

29th June 2019 @ 6.30pm and 30th June 2019 @ 2.30pm



The Witches tells the story of a young boy and his Grandmother as they battle against the child-hating witches.

Rehearsals are well on their way and all of the cast are working hard to make this the best show yet.

If you would like to help backstage with set building please let the Youth Group know.

We welcome new members to the Junior or Middle Youth Group and if you wish to join please email: sptjmyg@hotmail.co.uk

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP NEWS

This year we will be performing:



LEGALLY BLONDE

11, 12, 13 July 2019 @ 7.30pm and Sunday, 14 July at 3.00pm

Elle Woods has it all. She wants nothing more than to be Mrs Warner Huntington III. But there is one thing stopping him from proposing: She is too blond. Elle rallies all of her resources and gets into Harvard, determined to win him back.

DEADLINE FOR MAY BT is 23rd April 2019.

Please email items to:

editor@boardtreader.org.uk; editor@shinfieldplayers.co.uk;
boardtreader@shinfieldplayers.co.uk; shinfieldboardtreader@hotmail.co.uk

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