



Lockdown Edition 6

October 2020

From the Chairman

Welcome to another edition of the Boardtreader. Another month where we await the opening of our theatres. Even though there are no shows on at Shinfield Players Theatre at the moment, we are still being active.

There is tremendous work happening backstage with flats being cleaned and painted, finishing touches to our wonderful new lighting and sound box. If you want to help out then please contact Sam@shinfieldplayers.org.uk. I am sure she would welcome a helping hand (or two).

Theatreoke is running on a monthly basis and the youth groups are cautiously meeting socially distanced on Wednesdays and Fridays. The Senior Group are planning to produce two plays to an invited socially distanced audience during October. We will report back to you all next month.

It was lovely to see so many people at the Annual General Meeting! Thank you for participating and thank you for your patience during these difficult times.

Thank you to those who have stepped down from their committee roles (Maggie Smith, Charlotte Miller and Jon Chishick) and again I would like to thank them all for their contribution over the years.

I hope you all stay safe and look forward to seeing you soon.

Gordon

Gordon Bird

On-line Theatroke Session

Saturday 24th October at 8.30pm



Come along and catch up virtually with your SPT friends?

Our next online Theatroke will be on Saturday 24th October at 8.30pm

It's as much about getting to see each other as it is about the singing - which is completely optional! The Zoom link is available on the event in the SPT Facebook group. If you're not on Facebook please email Lara and she'll send it out to you, lara@shinfieldplayers.co.uk;

The Shinfield Players Theatre AGM (Zoom meeting)

was held on Thursday 10th September at 7:30pm

The Committee members appointed for 2020/2021:

Gordon Bird	Chairman, Youth Groups
Sue Gowen	Treasurer
Cate Naylor	Secretary
Jane Minchin	Membership Secretary
Adam Wells	Licensing and Production Selection
Martin Butler	Front of House, Publicity
Carol Vockins	Musical Selection, Costume
Graham Vockins	Maintenance
Sam Turner	Back Stage
Rachel Lockwood	Production Liaison, Senior Youth Group

At the AGM, we were pleased to announce Jodie Prenger as the Patron for Shinfield Players Theatre

Jodie Prenger is an English actress and singer who is best known as the winner of BBC television series *I'd Do Anything* on 31 May 2008 and the second series of *The Biggest Loser* in 2006.

On 10 March 2009, Jodie appeared on *The Paul O'Grady Show* and spoke about her time on *The Biggest Loser*. On seeing a picture of herself after initially losing weight, she said that she believed she lost too much weight and became too thin at that time. She also commented that she believed all women should have curves.

I'd Do Anything

Jodie was the winner of *I'd Do Anything* on 31 May 2008, giving her the opportunity to play Nancy in a West End revival of the British musical *Oliver!* at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. Jodie played the role of The Lady of the Lake in the UK tour of the hit musical *Spamalot*, which began performances in May 2010.

She was also cast as Diane in the new drama series, *Candy Cabs*, about a group of friends who set up a female-only taxi company in a seaside town in Northern England.

In 2015, she played Miss Hannigan in the UK tour of the musical *Annie* at Oxford's New Theatre. Jodie performed in the UK tour of *Tell Me On A Sunday* before taking on the title role in the UK tour of *Shirley Valentine*. In 2017/18 Jodie played the lead role of Kelly in the world premiere of Kay Mellor's *Fat Friends The Musical*.

2019 saw Jodie touring in *Abigail's Party*

We are thrilled to welcome Jodie Prenger as our new Patron and thank her for accepting this role with Shinfield Players Theatre.

Covid 19 Track and Trace

The theatre is now displaying the QR code for the phone app. If you do not have the app or do not wish to use it we will be providing alternative methods of recording your entry into the building. Due to the fast moving pace of changes we will put a poster up by the Greenroom door with current instructions.

Cleaning Rota

The cleanliness of the theatre is something that our patrons see when they come through our doors and with this in mind we would like to establish a cleaning rota to include members (ie toilets, hoovering foyer, and auditorium etc). Ideally to be done on a once-a-week rota basis. If you would be interested in joining this rota please contact sue@shinfieldplayers.co.uk for more details? Many thanks for your support.

Mushy Goes to the Vets... Quite a Drama!



We thought Mushy had been rolling about in the saw dust in the workshop but it actually turned out she had a mite that had given her a very bad case of dandruff. Her coat was looking untidy and she was shedding a lot of fur.

The vet couldn't give us anything over the counter so we had to get her to the vets.

We had a very bad attempt one afternoon to trap her in the back dressing room and put her in a small cat box. The result... one very unhappy cat and one upset person.

So it was decided that a two person approach was needed. One phone call to our friendly Cats Protection contact and a bigger/easier cat cage was sourced.

We then sat on the foyer floor with the cat cage and a very suspicious Mushy who was not at all convinced that everything was normal.

One swift pick up and shut of the cage and she was ready for her visit to the vet. The 3 minute journey was punctuated by a sobbing cat, it seemed a much longer journey. The vets were amazing. We had to admit we had no idea how Mushy would react as we had never needed to take her to the vet before. So they put on protective gauntlets just in case she was feisty.

However she just played possum and sat crying on the table. She was treated for mites and whilst they had the chance, we also had her chipped in case she went missing again. We are doing some follow ups with more mite treatment but she is doing well and thoroughly enjoying the daily grooming she is getting.

We know she is feeling better as she has been seen with a mouse so she is definitely back on top form. She's also managing to give the crew the run around and getting lots of fuss. So Mushy is being well looked after and still making the most of the theatre to herself.
Sent from a place where the dragons and fairies roam!

Many thanks to Di Capel

Henry Hawes Gives the Thumbs up!

Carol and Graham Vockins spent a very pleasant afternoon recently with Theatre President Henry Hawes. They had lunch at a local restaurant followed by a visit to the Theatre to let Henry see what had been done recently. He was amazed at the refurbishment of the Auditorium and took the opportunity to try out one of our new chairs in the upgraded Lighting and Sound area. He thought our new format was most professional and sends his congratulations to all involved in keeping the Theatre up to date.



Panto Postponed

It is with regret and sadness that we have had to postpone our 2021 Panto, *Snow White and the Four Swedish Popstars*. The current Covid 19 situation has meant that most theatres have had to take the same decision but we hope to have the Panto back again in 2022. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Zoom readings and meetings. We will be back!

The Masked Singer?

Has anyone seen the TV programme "The Masked Singer?"

One of our members has approached me to ask if this is something we could do at SPT during the lockdown? Each week we reveal a "masked singer" and we have to guess who the person is?

I think it is a lovely idea and certainly has my vote! You never know, you may even get me to appear!

If you are interested in taking part of helping out then please drop me an email at
gordon@shinfieldplayers.org.uk

Take a Poetic Moment with Esme Bates

Please take a look at Esme's poems and listen to them on the link below. Esme has been flat on her back and learning to edit and thought she would share this video and say Hi to everyone at Shinfield!

<https://youtu.be/9RAPMRTCv7c>

Please feel free to share links to Esme's videos and invite people to subscribe and like.

Please email items for the November Board Treader by October 26th to:

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