

Review

COMEDY

CONJURING UP COMEDY

★★★★★

Hedgerley Memorial Hall

IAN Keable uses comedy and fiendishly sophisticated magic tricks to wow his audience. And he certainly succeeded

with his one-man show which played to a sold out audience at the Hedgerley Memorial Hall.

In the first half, with a mixture of amusing anecdotes and self-deprecating humour, Keable described how he made the journey from accountant to professional magician. In between telling how he suffered having to follow Harry Enfield on stage at a comedy club and been winched off by helicopter from a cruise ship for sparring with a VIP who had a sense of humour bypass, he performed an array of baffling magic and mind reading tricks that punctuated the various stages in his magic life.

After the interval, we saw Keable in full flow with his award-winning act.

He has a disarming style and laid back manner which makes his magic all the more unexpected and his acerbic humour all the more funny.

His hilarious finale in particular, with two audience members getting stuck to chairs, a watch, a couple of bank notes and a lemon, will live long in the memory.

One of the true joys of the evening was the fact that Keable knew his audience so well – he was born and brought up in a Buckinghamshire village (Stokenchurch). But this is a show that has universal appeal for anybody who enjoys non-stop laughter while simultaneously being totally bamboozled.

This was a real gem from the Theatre in the Villages repertoire.

Ted Ganson