

COMEDY LEGENDS APPEAR AT THE SCHOOL



The legendary Cannon and Ball were the top of the bill act at 'The Secret Pensioner's Ball' held at the school on Saturday 31st August. The event marked the 65th birthday party of former Old Latin Nigel Norman (1965-1972) and the evening was truly memorable for those in attendance.



Nigel opened the evening to the tune of 'When I'm 64' dressed as an old man with stick and dressing gown, to momentarily disappear behind a screen in the centre of the stage, to the sound of Big Ben chimes and re-emerge to 'Let Me Entertain You', dressed in a gold sequined jacket accompanied by two glamorous showgirls.

The audience were then treated to a first set from Jukebox and Bobbysox, a 50s/60s retro band from Wolverhampton, who performed classic hits by the likes of Elvis, Buddy Holly, Eddie Cochran, Dusty Springfield and Peggy Lee. The band made numerous costume changes, made were very pleasing on the eye with their backing singers and dancers, and with the lead singers re-creating the artists portrayed.

After a break for a superb two course dinner, the show kicked off proper – compered by Nigel, the Benson Showgirls got the proceedings underway to a 'Viva Las Vegas' dance routine. These were followed by world renowned magician and illusionist Andrew van Buren. Van Buren showed off his skills of levitation and sleight of hand before handing out a cord to Headteacher, David Hudson. David was well and truly 'roped in' as he assisted van Buren perform an escape from a regulation

straight-jacket. He concluded his act with one of variety's long lost feats – plate spinning. He defied the gasps from the audience as the countless number of plates stayed intact on the stage.

Next up was Britain's Got Talent finalist, Steve Hewlett – arguably now the leading ventriloquist in the country. He started with a hilarious routine with Arthur Larger and then proceeded to perform with a 'live' dummy in the shape of Kevin Robinson, a Maids Moreton resident. Kevin played his part so well that Steve wanted him to go on tour with him!

The next act on the bill saw the performance of the extraordinary talents of Steve Rawlings, a comedy juggler of exceptional talent. He juggled the most ridiculous items including chair, table and vase . . . golf clubs . . . and ping pong balls from his mouth. He encouraged several members of the audience to participate in his act and concluded with fire juggling, much to the concern of the on-looking caretaker!

Nigel was well into the compering by now, and couldn't wait to announce that it was 'top of the bill' time. Fighting their way out of the curtains walked Bobby Ball, in familiar red braces and hush puppies, with his straight man Tommy Cannon. The audience were in awe to see the world's longest running comedy double act – of some 57 years – in front of their very eyes. After a typical stand-up routine they immersed themselves amongst the audience. There was plenty of 'Rock on Tommy' and, 'You've Got Me Skin, Tom' as they revelled in the situation.

All of the performers took one final bow and heartily sang 'Happy Birthday' to the host and a final hour of classic dance tunes followed by the band.

