

Rock Stars of the Future

Pop your head out of the front door or put an ear to a window on Thursdays between 5.15pm and 7.15pm, and Sunday morning between 10.00am and noon, and you might just hear the beautiful sound of rock music. Yes, **Witchwood School of Rock** has

arrived at New Beaconsfield Hall and the children from the local villages are attending in droves playing electric guitars, acoustic guitars, drums, bass guitar and even striking their vocal chords. The rock school has been created in partnership with music teacher Sandy Chalmers and the New Beaconsfield Hall. Sandy and his volunteer Aldie have performed together and owned their own London recording studio. The rock school has been set up to offer the young people of the Wychwoods an alternative to sports.

In January we ran a taster session, with over forty children playing instruments on stage in front of parents and friends. For many this was the first time they had played a guitar or bashed a drum kit and for some it was a first to perform on



stage in a band situation. After this success the hall decided to introduce two weekly rock-school sessions, which introduce the key elements of music including theory, timing, tone and technique. During the February half-term break the

rock school ran a song writing workshop; the children wrote and recorded their excellent songs at the hall. CDs have been produced containing all the 11 tracks created by the children including bands such as **7 car pileup** and **bio-hazard**. It was an amazing week of creativity and children as young as six years took part in writing and recording what could be rock anthems of the future! There will be further workshops taking place over the Easter holidays focussing on live performance and stage craft with a showcase event on Friday 17th April at New Beaconsfield Hall. The rock school is aimed at children aged 8 to 18 years and caters for all abilities. For further information call me on: 01993 832216 at NBH.

Lee Wyatt-Buchan

Oscar Successes

Kate Winslet finally did it and was awarded the 'Best Actress' Oscar for her part in *The Reader*. Kate lives with her husband Sam Mendes and their children in Church Westcote.

Amazingly, we also have a second winner in the area! Ian Tapp, who lives with his wife in Shipton-under-

Wychwood, won an Oscar for his work on the sound-mixing for *Slumdog Millionaire*. Mr Tapp said: "I'm absolutely ecstatic to have been awarded the highest accolade in the film industry. It's a dream come true."

Our congratulations to both Kate and Ian.

Christine Halliday