

## Special Feature

# Easter Rock - Big Gig Night

On the first day of the Easter holidays, New Beaconsfield Hall was host to the Witchwood School of Rock Easter workshops. Over the course of two weeks, forty children attended the rock school to learn stage craft and live performance, leading up to the first ever Big Gig

night on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April. What a fortnight of fun and hard graft. The children excelled themselves, many never having performed live before, but amazingly feeling very confident about the challenge. First-off bands were formed and new friends were made. Then the children put their creative minds and skills together writing new songs and rehearsing endlessly to perfect their masterpieces before tackling the big stage.

### Ready to Rock!

Band names were confirmed; Haiz, Blades of Grass (Fury), Mourning Glory, M JAILS, Backfire, Electric Shox, The Hot Rods, Uncertainty and Out of Order. It was important at this stage to give the bands examples of how professional musicians command and utilise stage craft to give the ultimate performance. The children researched bands such as AC/DC and Queen to get ideas for their own look and stage presence. The bands were now fully functional and ready to



Blades of Grass (Fury); Tom, George  
Matt and Max

rock! Through the misty smog of the stage smoke machine, drifted forty primed children with a point to prove. Yes sir, indeed, there was a gig to play and on the night of Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April the bands performed in front of over 100 people.

The evening kicked off with rock school tutors Sandy, Aldie and Easy performing a stomping song to warm up the crowd. It certainly worked, the 100 plus crowd were in a frenzy and wanting more of the same. It was the turn of our excited children next and they did not disappoint! With true professionalism and nerves of steel our bands rocked New Beaconsfield Hall from it's foundations and scaled heights that none of us could have imagined. What a successful Easter for the rock school and what fantastic young local talent there is in the Wychwoods.

### Big Gig 'Thank You'

The Big Gig was also a fundraising evening for the rock school which managed to raise £307.50 through raffle ticket sales and bar revenue. All the money raised will be put towards equipment for the rock school. The Big Gig was digitally recorded and further details regarding the DVD and CD can be found at [www.witchwoodrock.com](http://www.witchwoodrock.com)  
**Lee Wyatt-Buchan**