

# The 1<sup>st</sup> Wychwoods Music Festival

From 4pm through to 10pm on June 28<sup>th</sup> there was a continuous flow of acts on stage at the New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton. A barbeque, tea with home-made



cakes and a bar kept the audience well fed and watered. With performances from 75 talented people from the Wychwoods it was a show to delight all tastes. We have pencilled in 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015 for the next Festival, so make a note in your diary.

Thanks to all the volunteers who made this event such a success; without them we could not have held the day.

It is also very pleasing to report that we have donated the profits of £738 to SSAFA, another reason for holding a second festival in 2015.

**Lee Wyatt-Buchan**  
**Gordon Halliday**

## Who Needs Glastonbury?

I felt very privileged to be part of the first Music in the Wychwoods - who needs Glastonbury? My job on the day was to be backstage, meeting the bands, who were all so friendly and talented. The Reaper, who spring from the Witchwood School of Rock, rocked hard; look out for these guys, they are going to be huge!

Wychwood Saplings (see photograph above) led by Mandy-Rae and Lizzie Large sang a medley of songs from WWI; *We will remember them* was a very poignant reminder that it was Armed Forces Day. They were followed by three more Rock School bands, loud, brash and talented. Most of their numbers were composed by band members and each had a story to tell. It is great to see such young children giving confident performances to a mixed audience.

Charlotte Taylor sang songs from popular musicals and then Mark Jessey showed us that not only can he act but he has a powerful singing voice too. He soon had

the audience singing along. Band M, another 'must-see' local band gave us their version of the Sex Pistols, which for me was the highlight of the day. I could not stop singing and dancing along with them. Mark Pidgeon mixed folk and blues with gentle comedy. I did not sleep after his spooky stories. He performs regularly at the Ascott Folk Club.

The ever-popular Wychwood Singers gave us a mixture of songs from the musicals as well as operatic arias featuring talented soloists. They were on top form as usual.

Ragged Edge brought the day to an end with their own brand of pop and rock'n'roll and had the audience up on their feet bopping along with them. It was an awesome day of super talent and fun.

I know everyone who supported this event will agree it was brilliant and hopefully will become an annual event.

**Laura Pickford**