

# Festival's 'X Factor' qualifiers celebrate

SEVEN qualifiers have made it through the first heat of an X Factor-style competition for young musicians in Great Bowden.

Nearly 50 youngsters aged under-11 competed in the first heat of Junior X Factor, held at Great Bowden village hall as part of the Great Bowden Festival.

The judges listened to eight hours of music on June 15 before eventually selecting seven performers to go through to the final.

They were: singer Arthur O'Donovan, singer Holly Jane Grimshaw, pianist Isobel Edwards, flautist Kiara Tooms, singer Lucy Astbury, singer Tyler Smith and singer Zoe Callow.

Andrew Cartwright, one of the organisers, said: "For those that did not make the finals, many congratulations in having the nerve and enjoyment of music to enter."

There will be another heat this Sunday for 11 to 14-year-olds and one on July 20 (15 to 18-year-olds), with the qualifiers progressing to a grand final at St Peter and St Paul Church in the village on August 23.

The winners in each age group will receive £50 vouchers from ABC Music with the overall winner bagging a £100 voucher and an engraved glass trophy.

The Great Bowden festival is held every four years and sees numerous events organised throughout the year.