



SINGING IN THE RAIN: Sudbury Leestock Festival underway at Sudbury Football Club.

Photos: GREGG BROWN

Rain can't dampen charitable spirit

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ORGANISERS of a popular charity music festival are celebrating a record turnout, despite the unseasonal weather.

Peter Keogh, co-founder of the LeeStock festival, which took place at AFC Sudbury's stadium on Sunday, said a crowd of more than 800 music fans had made an effort to turn out in chilly and rainy conditions to support the event.

LeeStock was started five years ago in memory of Sudbury man Lee Dunford, who died in 2006 after a brave fight against cancer.

Money raised from the event is donated to The Willow Foundation – a national charity that provides special days for seriously ill 16 to 40 year olds. According to Mr Keogh, the festival has continued to grow year on year.

He said: "When you consider we were competing against dozens of Jubilee events this time around, and money is tight with everyone because of the recession, we can honestly say we were really pleased with how the day went.

"The merchandise we were selling included waterproof capes, which proved best-sellers in the circumstances. We ended up selling out of everything, which was wonderful, and we are confident that we will be able to give a big donation to the Willow Foundation."

Highlights of the day included a headline performance by American rock band, Wheatus – best known for their 2000 single,



TRIBUTE ACTS: AFC Sudbury's annual fundraising event, Alive & Kicking

Teenage Dirtbag. Mr Keogh added: "We were invited on stage for the finale and it was so gratifying to be able to look out on the crowds and see how many people had turned out in memory of Lee."

And on Monday families gathered at the stadium for the Alive & Kicking music all-dayer, which is AFC Sudbury's annual fundraising event.

And with the weather vastly improved

compared with Sunday, the crowds came out in force.

This year a host of popular tribute acts graced the purpose-built stage including Bon Jovi, the UK's leading Bon Jovi tribute band; The Committed, who play numbers from the Commitments and Coldplay, who perform Coldplay songs.

Other acts paid tribute to rock leading ladies Katy Perry and Lady Gaga.