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News

Hall hosts festival

Annual event in aid of LeeStock finds 'its home' in grounds of Melford Hall



■ The LeeStock music festival in the grounds of Melford Hall in memory of Lee Dunford. Above, Benjamin Bloom on stage. Photos: PHIL MORLEY

By Ross Bentley
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IT'S a moment that happens once in a while for us Suffolk folk - when we look around at the gentle countryside and the big sky, and quietly note that there are few places in the world we would rather be.

Early Sunday evening at the LeeStock music festival was one of those episodes.

There was good music, a nice crowd and the children were off playing in the fields - the majestic grounds of Melford Hall were a backdrop and a pinkish sun cast a warm glow over proceedings.

I'd missed Saturday's events because of work but almost everyone I spoke to had enjoyed performances by former chart bands Space and Toploader.

But I was there to see Mark Morris play a mellow set and John Power wind-up the festival with a beguiling collection of acoustic folk numbers. The team behind LeeStock should be congratulated.

Now in its sixth year, the festival has graduated from the car park of the White Horse pub, in Sudbury, to this historic venue, while the music on offer has gone from strength to strength.

The organisation is also spot on with just the right amount of security, facilities, food outlets and a well-stocked bar.

The owners of Melford Hall must also be thanked - I'm sure there was a measure of apprehension when they agreed to hold a music festival in the grounds.

But everyone in the 800-strong crowd was respectful of the place and the vibe was very friendly.

As organiser Pete Keogh said: "I think the festival has found its home."

The event raises funds for the Willow Foundation - a charity that provides special days out for people living with serious illnesses - and was started by friends of Sudbury musician Lee Dunford who died of cancer in 2006.

I'm sure he would have been very proud of what they have achieved.

Mercury briefing

Appeal goes out for volunteers

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help with the Marie Curie Cancer Care Fundraising Groups. The group helps raise vital funds to allow Marie Curie nurses in the area to provide free care to people with terminal cancer and other illnesses.

This enables people to spend their final weeks, days or hours in their own homes in familiar surroundings with family and friends close by.

If you can help contact Angela Bussey on 01284 747385 or email angela.bussey@mariecurie.org.uk

£690 for the hospice

A fundraising cheese and wine evening in Clare has raised hundreds of pounds for St Nicholas Hospice Care.

Clare Antiques and Interiors, at The Mill, Malling Lane, hosted the event, which was organised by owners Colin and Carmel Merchant. It was the first event of its type in the shop.

The evening raised £690. Jordan Hughes, St Nicholas Hospice Care community fundraiser, said: "I couldn't think of a better setting for what was a very elegant night. Well done and thank you to everyone who supported St Nicholas Hospice Care on the night."



THE MILL HOTEL

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The Mill Hotel in Sudbury has recently been refurbished and is steeped in history and nestled away in true Suffolk countryside. Sudbury has plenty to offer the visitor and the Mill Hotel is the perfect base to enjoy the area. It is ideal for getting out and about with the family, enjoying a relaxing weekend with plenty of peace and quiet or visiting for business purposes.

The Riverside Restaurant at the Mill Hotel offers both a sophisticated and pleasant dining experience. Our carefully selected wine list offers both new and old world wines. Head Chef, Carl Johncock sources local produce wherever possible to ensure we feature the best of the area on our menu.

If you wish to take a more casual approach you can enjoy a meal in the Meadows Bar overlooking the wonderful meadows.

Why not visit us for a superb meal, afternoon tea or just a drink overlooking beautiful scenic views

