

'Lee would be amazed'

Mother of cancer victim praises work of son's friends

by Elliot Pinkham

elliott.pinkham@
suffolkfreepress.co.uk

TWO big names have been announced to headline at a popular Sudbury music festival.

American rockers Wheatus, who scored two top five hits with singles *Teenage Dirtbag* and *A Little Respect* a decade ago, and Sheffield indie band Babybird, who shot to fame with 1996 single *You're Gorgeous*, will top the bill at Leestock this summer.

The festival—organised in memory of Sudbury musician Lee Dunford, who died of cancer aged 21 in 2006—held a launch party at The White Horse in North Street on Friday, with five live bands watched by more than 100 people.

Last year's headliners, Nigel Clark from Dodgy and Mark Morriss from the Bluetones, will also play the festival, which recently joined forces with Sudbury's Live and Kicking festival to share costs and mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend.

Lee's mum, Rose, who attended the launch party, said: "I think Lee would be amazed. He wasn't one to boast



about his friends but he had such a good group of them, and for them to remember him like they do after all this time is just fabulous.

"There aren't words to describe how me and my husband feel—it is so lovely that this is all in Lee's memory and it brings lots of people together."

Pete Keogh, who organises the festival with his brothers Matt and Edd, said: "These bands are a real coup for us, and it shows that, because of the Willow Foundation and Lee's memory, people are willing to support us and enable us to bring in bands like these."

The festival has raised around £25,000 for the Willow Foundation, a charity dedicated to improving the lives of seriously ill young adults which helped Mr Dunford before his death.

"It is great to give Sudbury an event that people can get behind which also benefits the charity," said Mr Keogh.

Leestock's big names will be joined on stage by a number of local acts and will be opened by the winner of a Sudbury Upper School battle of the bands competition.

The festival, which is now in its fifth year, will take place at AFC Sudbury's MEL Group stadium on Sunday, June 3. Live and Kicking festival, which raises money for AFC Sudbury, will take place at the same venue the following day.

Leestock tickets are priced at £20 and are available from www.leestock.org. Details about Live and Kicking are due to be announced shortly.

BIG NAMES ANNOUNCED: Ami O'Neill (left) and Linsey Taylor (right) from the Willow Foundation with Lee Dunford's parents Rose and Rob at Leestock's launch party on Friday.