

Festivals become one

Organisers of Leestock and Live and Kicking join forces

TWO of Sudbury's biggest live music events have joined forces to form two days of festival fun at AFC Sudbury's MEL Group stadium this summer.

Organisers of Leestock – which was previously held at the town's White Horse pub – and Live and Kicking will work alongside each other in order to share equipment and costs and tie in with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Leestock, now in its fifth year and organised in memory of Sudbury musician Lee Dunford, who died of cancer aged 21 in 2006, will take place on

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Sunday, June 3, with Live and Kicking returning to the stadium for the third year the following day.

Live and Kicking organiser Richard Instance said: "Both Leestock and Live and Kicking have been a roaring success and have been growing and growing.

"After lengthy negotiations, we decided it would be sensible to combine our resources for the Jubilee weekend celebrations."

Leestock has raised around £25,000 for the Willow Foundation, a charity dedicated to improving the lives of seriously ill young adults, while Live and Kicking raises funds for AFC Sudbury, and also incorporates a family fun day.

"With both groups working together, we are sure we can attract some very big acts, boost ticket sales and raise even more money for our causes," said Mr Instance.

"Our aim is to make the festivals some of the best on the region's music scene."

Peter Keogh, who organises Leestock with his brothers Matt and Edd, explained the benefits for their event.

"The key thing is we can join forces in terms of resources," he said. "We needed to go to a bigger venue because of demand, as we sold out two weeks in advance last year and, with all the stage and equipment costs, it made sense to tie the two together in that way."

A free official launch night for Leestock will be held tomorrow at its former venue, The White Horse pub in North Street, from 8pm.

Details of this year's headline acts will be announced, with music from five live bands.

For more information, visit www.leestock.org.