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Fundraising brew

Report by Emma Brennan

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ALE connoisseurs will raise a glass in memory of a Sudbury musician this week, with a specially commissioned commemorative brew.

Pentlow-based Nethergate Brewery is producing a 'LeeStock Beer' which will go on sale for the first time at the Sudbury Rugby Club Beer Festival this Friday and Saturday.

Sales of the ale will support the LeeStock Music Festival, an annual event which raises money for the Willow Foundation in memory of Lee Dunford, who died in 2006. The foundation provides special days for seriously ill young adults between the ages of 16 and 40.

Nethergate Brewery, named in the Good Pub Guide Brewery of the Year 2012, was founded in Clare in 1986 and recently moved to Pentlow for extra space and capacity. The brewery has branded the special LeeStock Ale and donated it to the festival, with all profits boosting the popular local cause.

Mike Atkinson, brewery director said: "Being part of local life for so long, it's a fantastic opportunity to give something back and support such a great cause by providing LeeStock Ale - a great beer to celebrate the life of Lee Dunford and support the Willow Foundation."

The two-day Sudbury Rugby Club Beer Festival, now in its



MEMORIAL ALE: Nigel Booth of Live and Kicking and Matt Keogh of LeeStock launching the 'Weekender' tickets at the MEL Group Stadium, above. Left, Paul Gower, Nethergate's head brewer and Ian Carson, one of two assistant brewers

Photos: CONTRIBUTED

tenth year, will take place at the rugby club's home ground in Spicer Way, Great Cornard. The event will feature more than 40 real ales and cider.

During the beer festival, there will also be a chance to buy discounted tickets for the LeeStock festival.

This year's musical extravaganza on June 3 will feature American rockers Wheatus as the headliners with main support from D:Ream.

Meanwhile, people are being offered an opportunity to purchase a pass for Live and Kicking and LeeStock music festivals.

Richard Instance, one of the events organisers, said: "We want to make it as easy as possible for people to attend both events, as both will be fantastic in their own right and we do not want anyone to miss out. However, we realise times are a little hard and that is why we have agreed to

launch the 'Weekender' ticket. Obviously, the more of these we sell the more we will raise for our respective charities."

The two-day festival will be held at AFC Sudbury's MEL Group Stadium on Sunday and Monday, June 3 and 4.

The 'Weekender' ticket is priced at £25. More information on other ticket options and details on each festival can be found at www.afcsudbury.com or at www.leestock.org