

22 July 2008

Blisters were worth it!

Folkestone, Kent. The setting for some England's most picturesque scenery, rolling hills and the Channel. Hills however, that can be a real pain to conquer!

Yet for some Cadets and Staff from the local Air Cadet's, conquer them is what they set out to do, some of them waling between 18 and 26 miles.

This years Folkestone March, attended by 1003 (Leighton Buzzard) Squadron Air Training Corps saw five Cadet's battle the weather to achieve their goal of the full 26 miles for which they were being sponsored by friends, family and locals, to raise funds for extra Squadron activities.

Speaking of the effort, Cadet Stephen Proctor (15) said; "It was a tough walk, it rained, it was sunny; the weather really couldn't make up its mind. But it was fantastic and a good result." Mr. Proctor was joined in the march by Cadet Christopher Paintain (17), Cadet Shelly Gray (15), Cadet Corporal James Chiddention (15) and Cadet Sergeant Emily Clark (16).

Also in for the 'fun', was Mrs. Melissa Vickers, a one time Air Cadet herself and now part of the Squadron's Civilian Committee. She also battles the elements and the cramp to reach her goal, which culminated in the recent presentation of a £1003 cheque to Officer Commanding 1003 Squadron, Flying Officer Lauraine Buggs.

"It's been an absolutely outstanding effort by the Cadet's who have raised substantial amounts, in addition Mrs. Vickers' more than generous contribution. This will go a long way to ensuring that we can continue doing our best for the Leighton Buzzard Air Cadets. I am very proud of them all!" said Fl. Off. Buggs.

The money raised is of a significant sum and Chairman of the Civilian Committee, Mr. Peter Hopley, announced that half of the funds would go towards the Children's Hospice, Keech Cottage in Steatley, near Luton.

1003 Squadron are always happy to welcome new members. If you are between 13 and 17 years old, and are interested in Aviation, Adventure Training, Local/National/International Camps... we'd love to hear from you. Visit our Adastral Avenue HQ (off Stanbridge Road) on Monday's or Thursday's (1930-2130), call us on 01525 851 728 or check out www.aircadets.org for more information. Hope to see you!

NOTES TO EDITORS

- Keech Cottage is part of The Pasque Charity (www.pasque.org) ph: 01582 492 339
- The 'Folkestone March' is an annual event in the Air Training Corps, known as the Folkestone Spitfire Cadet March.
- More information can be obtained by contacting CI Wickens on 07837 830 916 or the Squadron number above.

