

**Flying Officer Matt Dolton RAFVR(T)
Squadron Media Communications Officer
207 (Cranfield) Squadron ATC**

*Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Wing
Air Training Corps*

139e High Street, Cranfield, Beds, MK43 0HZ.
Tel: 01234 757507 Mobile: 07725 584631. Email: mattdolton299@hotmail.com



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PRESS RELEASE

As is the case throughout most of the Air Training Corps, 207 (Cranfield) Squadron took a well earned break during the Christmas period.

Culminating in a formal dinner and entertainment evening, 2008 has been a very good year for the Air Cadets of Cranfield as they saw a new Commanding Officer take to his post and set about the radical transformation of the Squadron, putting them back on the map.

You will have read many press releases throughout the year detailing the many activities attended and the incredible amount of success enjoyed by the cadets. So many so that, in fact, the squadron rose from the bottom of the league table in terms of media coverage to 4th from the top (compared to 28 other local squadrons) throughout the course of the year.

Keen to continue their active programme, the Squadron met up on two more occasions during their Christmas break:

Firstly, they attended 2 days at Sainsbury's supermarket in Kempston to begin their fund raising campaign to eventually replace their minibus. Every one of the squadron's cadets and most of the staff attended the event, packing shopping for customers during the very busy 'Christmas Rush'. All in all, over the two days, the squadron raised a staggering £1600 for the fund.

Flight Lieutenant Paul Weston, the Commanding officer at 207 Squadron was very pleased with the sum:

'The cadets and staff have really worked their socks off this weekend and have raised more money than we ever expected. This is a very good start for our fund and with several fund raising events planned throughout the year, we can only hope to continue in the same way that we have started. A big thank you to all involved including the staff here at Sainsbury's for their hospitality but especially to their customers who have helped us so much over the last 2 days.'

After Christmas, many of the Squadron personnel took part in a 4 mile sponsored walk around the local area to raise money for the Wishes Appeal – a charity for terminally ill children. The charity ensures that the children in their care receive a very special treat to enable them to enjoy their lives as much as they can. Past experiences have included dog sleigh rides in Lapland and holidays to Disneyland.

The sun shone on the cold, wintery day and did its job to enliven the spirits of those about to partake in the walk, which was completed in a little under an hour and a half. In all the Squadron raised a generous £150 for the charity and hope to do some more work for them in the coming year.

Finally, all the staff and cadets would like to take this opportunity to wish every one a very happy new year!

207 Squadron are now recruiting new cadets from the age of 13 to 18. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the Squadron on 01234 752030 or call in at their Headquarters off Merchants Lane, Cranfield between the times of 7:30pm and 9:30pm on a Monday or Thursday evening.

By Flying Officer Matt Dolton
SMCO 207 (Cranfield) Sqn



Squadron HQ, Off Merchants Lane, Cranfield, Beds MK45 0AD

Charity Exemption T54/95



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Notes to Editor

- Attached photo: 'Walk.jpg'
- 'Cadets and staff still smiling after their 4 mile winter walk'
- Picture is subject to Crown Copyright.



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