

Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Wing  
1220 (March) Squadron Air Training Corps

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Date: 26 MARCH 2009

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## PRESS RELEASE

### MARCH'S OPEN CHEST HELPS LOCAL AIR CADETS TO CARRY THEIR LOAD

Air Cadets of 1220 (March) Squadron ATC have received some much needed support for their Duke Of Edinburgh adventurous training programme from March's Open Chest Charity Shop. As part of their fundraising activities to support the cadets, the Squadron's Civilian Committee wrote to Open Chest requesting financial support towards the purchase of rucksacks. Open Chest was delighted to help and generously donated £300. Flt Lt Kirsty Burnham, Officer Commanding, said "It is essential that every cadet has the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme as part of their personal development. By having our own equipment, especially essential items like rucksacks, we can ensure that any cadet can take part in adventurous training regardless of their financial circumstances. This kind donation will help to maintain our proud achievements in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme."

Open Chest Manager Kathy Dudley and some of her volunteer staff visited the Squadron's Headquarters in Gas Road to see at first hand some of the cadet activities. After a briefing by Flt Lt Burnham, the Chairman of the Civilian Committee, Louise Ayres, explained the role of the Committee and how it supported the Squadron through fundraising. Kathy Dudley then presented the cheque to Cadet Corporal Tom Ward.

Every item donated to Open Chest either sold to raise funds which are distributed for local worthy causes or passed directly to less fortunate people. The shop is staffed by volunteers and is about to celebrate its 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary. Everyone at 1220 (March) Squadron ATC would like to say a big thank you to Open Chest for their tremendous hard work in supporting the local community.

**Colin Arnold**  
Flying Officer  
1220 (March) Sqn

Attachments: openchest.jpg – Kathy Dudley presents the Open Chest cheque to Corporal Tom Ward With her are some of the cadets and her staff Kath Beart, Mary Mulholland, Mavis Campbell and Louisa Croxton.



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