



## **Festival Heights**

The Bedford River Festival is one of the largest free festivals in the country and attracts on average 300,000 people. Clearly this was an opportunity too good to miss for 134 (Bedford) Squadron who rose to new heights to present the Air Cadet Organisation to the festival goers.

The Festival, held on the banks of the River Ouse, opened at 11am on Saturday 17th July and closed at 9pm on Sunday 18th July 2010.

Towering above an already impressive recruiting stand, Bedford Squadron set up the regional air cadet climbing wall to attract interest and promote the spirit of adventure.

From the start, the climbing wall located in the centre of a 'light blue' village containing stands from the RAF Careers, RAF Auxiliary Police Squadron, RAF Motivational Outreach Team and Tornado Maintenance School from RAF Marham, was a massive success attracting large numbers of young people and their parents.

All weekend there was a constant flow of potential recruits to the climbing wall and engaging with Squadron staff and cadets to learn more about the organisation and the great things that the Squadron and the Air Cadet Organisation have to offer.

For the cadets who staffed the event, it was a weekend of hard work as they worked in teams fitting helmets and harnesses to climbers and belaying them as they scaled the face of the climbing wall. This was a task that they took in their stride and a clear and visible demonstration to the public of cadets working in a team, exercising discipline, demonstrating responsibility for their actions and a maturity beyond their years.

At the conclusion of a hugely successful weekend and one of the highest profile operations undertaken by the unit in recent years the Squadron had amassed a potential 26 new recruits.

Warrant Officer Paul Taylor who co-ordinated the weekend said: "To say that I am impressed with what we have achieved this weekend is an understatement indeed. The cadets and staff were superb and worked in the finest traditions of the Squadron

to promote the air cadets to the public and demonstrate what a great organisation it is. We have received many favourable comments and even better gained many new recruits.”