



## **Remembrance Sunday**

Remembrance Sunday saw 44 Air Cadets from 134 (Bedford) Squadron paying their respects in traditional style during the Royal British Legion's Service of Remembrance held on the Embankment, Bedford.

Parading alongside cadets from all three cadet forces and other service and civilian organisations, the Squadron formed the largest contingent on parade.

The Squadron Banner party, commanded by Cadet Sergeant Ryan Sharples (16 yrs), joined various standard bearers from other organisations and the unit's poppy wreath was laid by Cadet Robert Goates (14 yrs), one of the newest cadets on parade.

Squadron Leader Paul Thomson Clark, the Western Sector Commander, led the Squadron for the duration of the parade and marched the unit past the Mayor of Bedford, Dave Hodgson who took the salute.

The Service of Remembrance is held annually on the Sunday closest to the 11th of November. This is to remember those who have fallen in the service of their country during the two world wars and subsequent conflicts and emergencies.

The Service was particularly poignant this year as it marked the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

After the Service and march past, the cadets assembled in Harper Square where the Mayor and other dignitaries briefly spoke to the cadets and thanked them for attending the parade.

Throughout the morning, cadet Corporal Peter Roberts (17 yrs) accompanied the Mayor in his official capacity as one of the three cadet organisations Mayor's Cadets. This is a new appointment and Corporal Roberts is the very first Air Cadet holder of this position.

To complete the day of remembrance, cadets and staff returned to the cemetery in Cardington Village and placed individual crosses of remembrance on the war graves.

Cadet Goates said, "It was a really good day and a great honour to be chosen to lay the squadron wreath. I was really nervous before the parade but afterwards, on reflection, I really enjoyed the day."

After the parade Sqn Ldr Paul Thomson Clark said "It was a huge pleasure to lead 134 in this years parade. The cadets are very mindful of the fact that the freedoms they enjoy today were hard won by those before them with some, many not much older than the cadets, making the ultimate sacrifice. I am sure that the watching public will have seen the pride and sense of duty the cadets bear with the responsibility that comes with wearing Her Majesty's uniform just as those have done in the years since 1914. They are a credit to the Borough of Bedford."