

More than 40,000 swoop on kite festival



More than 40,000 people swooped to Russell Park over the weekend for the 9th Annual Bedford International Kite Festival.

Organised and run by the events team at Bedford Borough Council, the weekend included kite flying experts from countries including: Australia, Bali, China, Indonesia, Switzerland, Germany and Holland.

The Festival was held on Russell Park and proved a great day out for the whole family. The site was packed with brilliant entertainment, including street theatre, crafts, flying displays, funfair, food stalls and a bar.

For those wanting some hands-on experience, there was also a special arena for individuals to have a go at flying one of the kites in the middle of the park, alongside the experts from around the world.

As the festival has proved historically popular with Japanese kite flyers and has links with the 'Japanese Kite Flyers Society', event organisers and site participants felt it appropriate to hold this year's auction towards the 'Japan Tsunami Appeal'.

The auction raised over £1,000 to helping to restore the north shore of Japan, which is currently undergoing continuing repair work after the massive earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan in March.

Mayor of Bedford Borough, Dave Hodgson, said: "The wind picked up just in time for thousands to enjoy this year's Kite Festival. The free entertainment on offer throughout the weekend helped make it the success it was."

"I was at the Festival on Saturday and it was a real pleasure to see so many families enjoying the amazing kites from around the world. I was also pleased to buy a kite myself at this year's charity auction, and am delighted that so much money was raised for the Japan Tsunami Appeal."