

Friday, March 07, 2014

Flight of fancy

External Security Officers Lee James and Neil Warman have a high-flying idea of how to give up something meaningful for Lent - and raise money for [St. Catherine's Hospice](#) in the meantime!

Lee explains what he does in his free time: "When I am not at home looking after my two children or on duty at Gatwick, I am an armchair airline pilot. Together, with hundreds of other like-minded hobbyists, I fly the airways of the world most weeks, using Microsoft Flight Simulator, to exotic and not so exotic destinations across the globe.

"Along with Neil Warman, another ASO on my team, we have something like 24,000 flying hours between us over more than 20 years of computer flying."

The event for Lent

With plenty of their peers giving up something for Lent, the two men decided to use this opportunity to take a virtual sabbatical from their favourite hobby - as well as freeing up their schedules to get a few chores done around the house.

But more than simply denying themselves some fun, Lee said: "We also wanted it to mean something, so we came up with the idea of selling 'virtual seats' on two virtual flights that we would operate at the end of Lent."

For a donation of just £1.00 (which gets donated to St. Catherine's Hospice), you can get a confirmed seat to one of 21 long-haul destinations on either a Boeing 777-200 or a 747-400.

On 19 April, Lee and Neil will mark the end of Lent by flying the route chosen by those who donated. The flight will be filmed, edited and uploaded to YouTube for all to see.

To date, the guys have raised £215 within just four days. For more information and to get involved, please visit Lee's website: http://www.leejames.f2s.com/My_Website/LENT.html.