

Forest of Galtres flies in with Support

Forest of Galtres Lodge members raised £200 through a Burns' Night charity auction of a simulator flight in the RAF's Tucano simulator based at RAF Linton-on-Ouse, near York. The money will go towards a new memorial to the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) at the UK's national memorial arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire.

John Tanner-Smith, Master of the Forest of Galtres Lodge No. 9438 said: 'We were delighted to present this money for such a noble cause and we would like to say thank you to Group Captain Jones from Linton for donating this exciting prize'.

The RCAF Memorial Project has been set up by RAF Linton-on-Ouse and RAF Leeming to create a UK memorial to over 10,000 Canadian aviators who were killed during the Second World War. Flt Lt David Williams of the project team said: 'There are many local memorials dotted about to the RCAF but surprisingly, no National one. Both Linton and Leeming were major RCAF bomber airfields during the war, and we felt that the bravery and sacrifice of these men and women – who were all volunteers – needed to be recognised.'

The project has a website: www.rcafmonument.ca.

The Royal Canadian Air Force operated out of a number of Yorkshire airfields during the Second World War. As well as Linton and Leeming, RCAF aircraft flew from East Moor, near Sutton-on-the-Forest, Dishforth, Dalton, Topcliffe, Skipton-on-Swale and Croft, which is still in use as a racing circuit. Yorkshire was home to 6 (RCAF) Group, Bomber Command, which was largely staffed, and entirely paid for, by the people of Canada.