

Postcommunity life

TEERING-OFF FOR MACMILLAN: FRIENDS of a St Ives man who died last year of cancer have raised more than £800 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Michael Butchard, who lived in St Ives for 30 years, died in June 2009, aged 41, leaving behind his wife, Jenny, and his eight-year-old son Christopher. Forty of his friends (pictured) gathered at Lakeside Lodge Golf Club at Pidley on September 4 to raise money in memory of Michael, who was described as a well-liked and respected man. The event, which also included a raffle, raised £816. Michael's friend of 30 years, Keith Lynch said: "It was a fantastic day, which we all decided we must do every year." He added: "We also had some help from local businesses which all gave raffle prizes for the night, so our thanks go to Ken Booth And Co Ltd, Cadges Menswear, Brookes Barbers and Lakeside Lodge Golf Club."



ST NEOTS

ASTRONOMY ASSOCIATION: The September meeting was a successful but quiet one. The speaker could not make it because of transport difficulties in north London. However, David Roberts, organiser of the group, was able to continue the interesting subject started last month by Dr Carolin Crawford from the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge. The talk picked up from where Dr Crawford left off, and then went on to look at various types of nebulae. The next meeting is on October 4 and will be a members/observing evening, although it is hoped that Jerry Workman will talk about eclipses. **INFORMATION:** The association meets at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve from 7pm. Call David Roberts on 01480 212960 for details.



Tribute heads to Malawi

THE Blues Brothers are going to Malawi in their most exotic show to date. St Neots tribute act The All-New Blues Brothers Revue will fly out at the end of the month to perform two gigs at the Lilongwe Wildlife Centre in Malawi's capital city. Jake and Elwood - played by Dave Wiggins and James Proctor - are part of the centre's Wild Night Out black-tie fundraiser and Picnic in the Park family day, after the organisers found them through a chance Google search. "There aren't that many Blues

Brothers tribute acts in Africa, so the organisers found us on the internet and liked what they saw on the website. "We've never gone quite that far for a show before, but we swapped a few emails and arranged it all," said Mr Wiggins. "It should be quite a prestigious event - we've been told there will be around 200 people at the fundraiser, including ambassadors and dignitaries." The brothers fly out on September 29 in preparation for the shows on October 1 and 2, and will also get

the chance to go on a three-night safari to Zambia. Mr Wiggins said performing in Africa would be a special challenge for the Blues Brothers. "We've performed shows abroad before, in Marbella for example, but we've been told the temperatures will be around 40 degrees in Malawi - and we'll be performing in suits, hats and glasses." He added: "We're used to tailoring the show to each audience, but this is the first time we've had to get vaccinations to perform our show."

ST MARY'S AFTERNOON WI: At the August meeting members heard Alison Morrell give advice on how to get the best out of clothes and make-up. Choosing flattering colours, fabrics and shapes is essential to getting good value from wardrobes. The competition for a homemade hat was won by Alex Clark-Ward. The September meeting was an outing to Wicksteed Park organised by Barbara Fenlon. Members and guests enjoyed a lovely day out with lunch and a vibrant afternoon of 50s and 60s songs. Plans are in hand for the Early Christmas Bonanza in The Priory Centre on Saturday, October 16, from 11am to 1pm. Specially for children, new and nearly new toys, books and games will be on sale. Admission is free.

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