

Stone's hottest venue — Granvilles!

RESIDENTS and visitors to Stone alike are all familiar with one of the town's most popular venues. Granvilles has been at the heart of Stone's social scene for 27 years and is still as vibrant and in tune with the pulse of the town as ever.

Proprietors Adam and Mandy Jones bought the venue in April 1984, when it was still known as the Little House Cafe. Lovingly, they repainted the dull dark brown exterior in a more appealing green and renamed it Granvilles.

For their first year, Adam and Mandy decided to keep things pretty much as they had been — the cafe had been famous for its warm atmosphere and toasties. Before too long it became clear to the couple that Stone needed something a little bit more adventurous than toasties.

They had dispensed with the old railway waiting room furniture that had been upstairs, obtained a licence, installed a small service bar, and lo — the restaurant was born. The couple then set their sights on expansion and a chance conversation with the neighbour opened up an opportunity to purchase the much larger building to the left.

Initially, they just took over part of the building, formerly a dry cleaners, and this allowed them to create a cocktail bar.

Further work on the back of the building also revealed a four foot deep garden that had not been seen for at least 40 years — it has since been transformed into the tranquil, flower filled space that is enjoyed by many and has just won First Prize in Stone in Bloom.

In 1990, Adam and Mandy acquired the entire ground floor that had previously been occupied by H G Paints & Wallpapers, allowing them to extend the downstairs area and build a stage, attracting a greater variety of musicians. The dawn of one of the most famous and well renowned live music venues in the Midlands had begun!

World famous performers flocked to Granvilles including Acker Bilk and His Paramount Jazz band, Chris Barber and His band, Kenny Ball and His Jazz men, Ronnie Scott, Humphrey Lyttleton, Stan Boardman, Paul Boardman, Digby Fairweather and His Half-dozen, King Pleasure and The Biscuit Boys, Georgie Fame, Jess Roden, Alan Price,

Granvilles, located in the heart of Stone, has been one of Staffordshire's premier live music and dining venues for 27 years. Staffordshire Life found out more



China Crisis, The Temperance Seven, Alan Hull and Ray Clements from Lindisfarne, Zoot Money, Sonja Kristina of Curved Air, Ruby Turner, Screaming Lord Sutch, Marie Wilson, Giles Hedley and many more.

With the restaurant upstairs and regular live music downstairs, some diners felt that they were missing out on the lively atmosphere, so having firstly created the gallery above where the bands play, it seemed an obvious progression to move the restaurant downstairs too. Upstairs, there is now an extra bar area which is open at weekends and is also a popular choice for private parties and private dinner clubs with its separate kitchen area.

Twenty-seven years on and Granvilles has evolved into one of Staffordshire's best known restaurant and music venues and has welcomed thousands of customers of all ages throughout the last two and a half decades, including such celebrities as Sir Cliff Richard, Lulu, Jasper Conran, Paul Jones, Billy Bragg, Feargal Sharkey, Ian Duncan Smith, not to mention such celebrity chefs as Paul Rankin, Mary Berry, James Tanner, Anthony Worrall-Thompson and The Hairy Bikers.

Their exciting menu, inspired by their dedicated kitchen team, keeps patrons coming back time and time again, with traditional favourites like pot roast chicken, crispy belly pork and steak and chips on the evening menu, and fresh salads, hot sandwiches and classics like fish and chips attracting the lunchtime diners, Monday to Saturday, from 12 til 2.

The extensive cocktail menu is also popular with revellers, with favourites like the classic long island iced tea and the mojito on offer, along side more contemporary concoctions like the butterscotch slide.

Party menus are also available and the restaurant's Christmas menu is now viewable on the venues website.

Granvilles has plenty on offer for visitors throughout December, with live acts including Magnetic Jellyfish, Dexter, Alive and Kicking, the Dedications, The Hifidels, The Vanz and DJ Ross. You can also look forward to a fabulous New Year's Eve party with Live Wires, so make sure you get your tickets early.

For more information, visit www.granvilles.st or call 01785 816658.