

Western mail, Monday, April 27 1987

### Appetising St Donats fare

## Candles add unique touch

THOSE looking for a night out which includes exceptional entertainment in an unique setting cannot do better than spend the evening at St Donats Art Centre, writes *Ilan Payne*.

This is doubly true on the cabaret evenings when a candlelight dinner is added to the attractions.

The first thing to say about Denise Black and the Kray Sisters who performed during the Saturday evening cabaret is that they were hugely entertaining.

The second thing is that Paul Sand their accompanist and song writer has an extraordinary range and talent for composition.

That range extends from comedy to politics to love. Strong songs on the Falklands war and South African apartheid were followed by a wonderfully bouncy, self mocking "what a great creator God is. to have made such

funny bodies." The most striking part of the act was without doubt the three part musical marathon chronicling the beginnings and rise to success of the group itself.

In its scope and scale and intentions this could only be called a cabaret cantata which formed an impressive and fitting ending to their thoroughly delightful performance.

Amidst wafts of enticing cooking smells the evening had opened with Mandy Douglas and John Hardy.

Miss Douglas is an affecting singer, if sometimes insecure of pitch and tone, who was at her best in quiet ballads like *My Funny Valentine*.

But the real find of this duo was John Hardy. The genuine entertainer reminiscent of George Segal in singing style, he lit up the evening with two witty dream songs. I look forward to hearing more of Mr Hardy.