



Sharp exit... Sir Elton

## Fuming Sir Elton storms off stage

By ALEX DIAZ

SIR Elton John stormed off stage after a fan tried to touch him.

The singer had invited up revellers at his Las Vegas show for rowdy tune Saturday Night's Alright For Fighting.

In a clip online, Sir Elton is seen becoming irritated as one of the fans repeatedly leans over and tries to touch him and his keyboard.

Sir Elton, 70, appears to swear at the fan before storming off.

After his band finished the song and the crowd had returned to their seats, Sir Elton returned.

He told the crowd, before singing Circle Of Life: "No more coming on stage during Saturday Night, you f\*\*\*ed it up!"

It is believed the person who tried to touch Sir Elton was ejected.

# BACK OUR CAMPAIGN AND HELP SAVE LIVES

EXCLUSIVE  
By SHARON HENDRY

**DEVOTED** parents John and Penny Clough still recall the midnight knock on the door that changed their lives for ever.

Waiting on their front step was a policeman with the earth-shattering news that their daughter, Jane had been stabbed to death by her vicious ex-partner.

The couple now tirelessly campaign on behalf of other domestic violence victims and recently opened a refuge in Jane's name.

Today they are backing *Save Our Shelters*, *The Sun* on Sunday's campaign, with Women's Aid, against proposed Government cuts that threaten the UK's network of refuges.

You can show your support too, by signing the petition, below, and sending it to us.

John, 57, a rail worker, said: "I don't want another dad to get a knock on the door at midnight.

"If these Government proposals go ahead, almost half of the refuges in this country will close.

"Why is it OK to spend £2million on a domestic abuse homicide case but not invest in the very places that keep women alive when they are fleeing abuse?"

One in four women are affected by domestic violence in their lifetime, yet the Government's plans could see more than a third of refuges close.

Ministers want to remove them from the welfare system, meaning women in hostels would no longer receive housing benefit, which currently accounts for 53 per cent of refuge funding.

Research by Women's Aid, a charity that runs refuges, shows that the reforms would lead to 39 per cent of the 270 refuge services in England closing for good.

Another 13 per cent would be forced to reduce beds, leaving 4,000 desperate women and children unable to access a safe place.

### 'What's to stop him getting me?'

Penny, a retired intensive care nurse, said: "Right now, Theresa May needs to make statutory funding available for all refuges. Staff should be focused on looking after women and children in their care, not fundraising to pay the rent.

"You cannot say on the one hand you want people to escape domestic abuse but on the other allow the closure of the only safe places they have to go. It's madness."

John and Penny's daughter was not in a refuge but living with them in Barrowford, Lancs, at the time of her death.

Tragically, it was not enough to protect her from Jonathan Vass, the abusive partner she had fled.

Her parents say Jane, 26, fell for Vass, an ambulance technician, because he painted himself as a victim who had been cheated on by his ex-partner.

By early 2009 Jane was pregnant by Vass but he was becoming controlling and sexually demanding.

In November that year she plucked up the courage to report him to police, telling officers of the months of physical and sexual abuse and the repeated rapes, including when she was seven months pregnant.

It was that act of courage that would help lead to her death.

Vass was charged in November 2009 with nine rapes and assault.

In court he was described as "manipulative and controlling" but freed on bail pending his trial.

With that hearing two months away, he travelled to Blackpool Victoria Hospital to wait for Jane, an A&E nurse, to arrive for work.

At 8.20pm on July 25, 2010, Jane parked her car and walked towards the hospital to begin her shift.

Vass pounced and launched a frenzied knife attack. Vass, 30 at the time of the murder, was jailed for a minimum of 30 years at Preston Crown Court in October 2010.

Mum Penny, who later helped change the law to allow the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to appeal Crown Court bail decisions, said: "We believe Jane was killed by a violent abuser AND a judge who ignored the CPS's objection to bail.

"When a victim tries to escape

# We named a refuge after Jane, murdered by her ex. Now it may be axed...it's MADNESS



COURAGEOUS... victim Jane. Right, Penny and John launch their refuge



FRENZIED... killer Vass

## TOP TEN MOST POPULAR COCKTAILS

- 1 Vodka Martini
- 2 Martini
- 3 Gin & Tonic
- 4 Vodka Tonic
- 5 Margarita
- 6 Vodka and Juice
- 7 Cosmo
- 8 House Specials
- 9 Lemon Drop
- 10 Scotch and Water

Source - Mixographer.com

## Harvey 'is distasteful'

SHAMED Harvey Weinstein's lawyer declared: "If a woman decides to have sex to advance her career, that's not rape."

The movie mogul's attorney Benjamin Brafman, 69, called Hollywood's casting couch distasteful but not illegal.

Ex-producer Weinstein faces a string of allegations of sexual assault and rape in New York, Los Angeles and London.

## LETHAL WORK CALLS

Staff at one in five firms crashed vehicles while using a mobile for work - yet most companies want calls taken on the road says the RAC.



**Dear Prime Minister,**

We demand that the Government urgently halts planned changes to funding for the UK's network of refuges. We call on you to find a suitable, long-term funding solution and ensure that every woman and child can safely escape domestic abuse.

Name.....  
Address.....  
.....  
Signature.....

Send to Save Our Shelters Campaign, The News Building, 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF

abuse they are more at risk than ever. The Government needs to understand that and make provisions." Jane kept a diary of her ordeal and fears of what Vass might do.

After fleeing her home to live with her parents, she recorded in her diary that she was worried "Johnny was going to do something stupid". She wrote: "He will get me. What's to stop him getting me?" John said: "Jane was the most beautiful, caring daughter. There are days we cope better than others but every time we hear of another domestic violence victim's death or a refuge closing, it kills us a bit more."

In June last year the couple opened Jane's Place, in Burnley. It is one of just six specialist refuges in

the UK offering support for abused women and children with complex needs including mental health issues.

Penny added: "It's such an honour to have it named after Jane. All we are trying to do is prevent another family going through what we have. "We wrote to Theresa May but our letter wasn't even acknowledged. "It feels like our daughter's life and countless others aren't even worth a response. That must change."

Helen Gauder, manager of SafeNet Domestic Abuse Service, which runs Jane's Place, said: "It is essential that women can safely escape domestic abuse, and our refuges help them do just that. "But funding for Jane's Place and other refuges is at risk and we are concerned about what will happen when the safety net of a refuge is no longer available."

Julie Cooper, Labour MP for Burnley, added: "Women's refuges are, for many, the difference between life and death. "The supply currently nowhere near matches demand and brave women escaping a domestic violence situation too often find that the local refuge is full. "In the light of this sad fact, the very least the Government can do is protect existing refuges from cuts and closure."