

## **Susan and Nigel Anstead**

### **British Empire Medal Recipients – New Year's Honours 2015**

Nigel and Susan Anstead are joint landlords of The White Horse Public House in Bedford and it has become a focal point in the community as Nigel and Susan have gone far beyond what is expected of local landlords.

They have used their position of being at the heart of the community to great affect by raising significant funds for a wide variety of local, national and international charities. They have raised over £189,000 for charity in the past 5 years, an incredible amount in such a short time.

They hold numerous charity events such as quiz nights for a different charity each week and have hosted a whole weekend of fundraising for 'Help for Heroes'. An event for the 'Friends of Bedford Hospital' raised £800 in one evening.

In the Spring to Autumn period they invite dozens of charities to set up stalls at the numerous beer festivals and other events they arrange. These are very well attended and attract people from around the region. Appropriate fundraising events are also arranged around the Christmas period.

Nigel and Susan have rejuvenated the local public house in Newnham Avenue, Bedford, into a vibrant and active community which has excellent disabled access, as well as being a platform for entertainers, debates and open discussions which allow local residents to communicate on a greater and more open level.

They have won numerous awards, such as:

- 'Luton and Bedfordshire Business Excellence' award 2006;
- Most improved pub and the Charles Wells 'Pub of the Year' 2007;
- 'Best Training House' and 'Publican of the Year' in 2010;
- Eagle Star 'Pub of the Year' in 2011.

In 2012 they received the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire Award which is indicative of their impact and standing within the community.

It is evident that they are consistently operating at the highest level of their profession, and continuously looking for opportunities to enhance their public house service to the community.

Despite the difficulties which the industry constantly faces in modern times, they have flourished by transforming the old traditional dark manners of pubs into a fresh, active and vibrant community centre. If every Landlord utilised their facilities in a similar manner, then communities would be closer and more cohesive.

In short they are an exemplar of both community and charity work, and what can be achieved with innovation and communal spirit. In all Susan and Nigel are an asset to Bedford residents and the Landlord profession.

