

Mablethorpe & SUTTON ON SEA Leader



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Unique BEM honour for fundraising duo

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A fundraising husband and wife duo from Sutton on Sea are the only couple in Lincolnshire to receive the British Empire Medal (BEM).

Tony and Ruth Knowles were included in the 2014 Queen's New Year Honours list for their charitable services to Neurological Treatment in East Yorkshire.

The BEM is presented to individuals who have provided a distinguished service towards charitable organisations of all kinds and is a national honour which is blessed by the Queen.

The couple were presented with their medals by the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, Tony Worth.

"It is quite unusual for a married couple to receive the BEM together, it is the first time I have ever seen it," the Lord Lieutenant said.

Surrounded by both family and friends, their medal presentations took place at The Royal Oak Inn, better known as The Splash in Little Caughtorpe near Louth.

A fitting venue for their presentation as this is also the focal point for their charity bikeathons which are held every year.

Tony and Ruth lost their daughter Emma-Jayne to a brain tumour in 1998, just before her 23rd birthday.

To show their appreciation to Hull Royal Infirmary for all the support that their daughter received, the Emma-Jayne Memorial Fund was formed as a way of keeping the memory of Emma-Jayne alive and also to help raise money for the Infirmary's neurosurgical unit.

Since their charity crusade began, the couple have raised over £134,000 for Hull Royal Infirmary and have caught the hearts of many from all across the country.

Tony Knowlessaid: "Thank

you to everyone, knitting it altogether has made this day a big thing and I'm wearing my medal and I am extremely proud of it, but to each and every one of you who has helped and supported us should be wearing one too, so this honour we share with you too."

Ruth added: "We have had an absolutely fantastic day and receiving this medal is truly amazing."

"I would just like to thank every one who joined us in our celebrations and to all of you who have supported us during the last 14 years."



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