

South East

The Fox, Felpham, West Sussex

Andy and Alison Hirons won the top award for their outdoor trading area in last year's Great British Pub Awards. However, the accolade hasn't stopped the couple from making further improvements to what was already a very impressive layout.

For a start, an overgrown, semi-walled area on one side of the outdoor area has been cleared. Children's play equipment and garden furniture have been added to create a hidden garden, where the noise of the kids will not disturb those wanting peace and quiet.

The couple then added side screens to a covered, decked terrace. "This has extended the use of this area considerably," they explain.

Elsewhere, the hard and soft landscaping, which the couple developed soon after taking on the Enterprise Inns lease three



The Hirons: green-fingered hosts

years ago, looks as good as new.

Most of the horticultural work is carried out by Alison's parents and the bill for new plants, scrubs, flowers and miscellaneous items comes to "a few thousand pounds every year". Andy comments: "Because our garden is so popular, it is important it looks good. So it is a constant investment as every year plants have to be renewed and seating replaced." Alison adds: "On a Sunday, when the weather is fine, the garden is full."