

Nancie Ross MBE

On Thursday 9 February Nancie Ross, accompanied by her husband, Kenneth, and her eldest grandson, Luke (14), will go to the Palace to receive her MBE for services to the community.

She has been involved in serving the community in so many ways since the 1960s – for example, fund raising for the Scouts and Guides, fund raising for Cancer Relief, 13 years on the Volunteer Forum Committee, on the Committee of the Community Association and she was a Governor of Carrington Junior and Middle School for 13 years. But the main reason for her award has been her role in turning Coffee Mornings for the over 60s established in 1981 into Age Concern's only purpose built Day Centre for the elderly in the County of Buckinghamshire - Age Concern Flackwell Heath and Loudwater – which opened in 1990.

In the early days the staff at the centre were all volunteers. People would ask Nancie what would happen to the Centre if she were no longer there. She told them confidently that it would be fine – but her fingers were tightly crossed. Today there is a resilient structure with a professional core of staff supported by volunteers.

Nancie remained Chairman of the Committee from its inception until she stood down 6 years ago. She is still on the Management Committee and still does voluntary work at the Centre but she has carried her interests and fund raising skills to a wider stage. She was Chairman of Age Concern Buckinghamshire for three years and is currently Chairman of their Fund Raising Committee. She was asked to provide her valuable experience to help establish the Caribbean Day Centre for elderly West Indian residents of Wycombe which opened in 2000.

Nancie was more embarrassed than delighted to have her picture in the Bucks Free Press. She prefers to see her award as a mark of achievement not only for herself but also for all the people who have worked so hard with her to establish the Day Centre.

She would also like to say “thank you all very much for all the best wishes and congratulation I have received. I have been overwhelmed by the kindness of so many people”.

Tim Kendell