

**23 September 2004**

## **AGE CONCERN REVEALS BRITAIN'S STAR GRANDPARENT**

### **Shropshire's Grandparent wins Grandparent of the Year 2004**

**Jean Boyd, 56** from **Telford, Shropshire** has won the Olympic gold of British grandparenting as she has been named the **Age Concern Grandparent of the Year 2004**. She was nominated by her granddaughter, Melissa Wolfe, 16, for all the love and support that she has given her.

Cherie Booth, QC, presented Jean, Britain's best grandparent with the award this afternoon at Le Meridien Piccadilly Hotel, central London. The award ceremony was hosted by GMTV presenter, Fiona Phillips. The award is a celebration of the importance of grandparents to family life.

Melissa nominated her Nanny because of all the support she has given her through difficult times. When she was eight, Melissa was diagnosed with a brain tumour. Jean slept by Melissa's bedside and helped her make a full recovery. The family were hit with another blow when Melissa was 12. She broke her neck in a trampolining accident and is now paralysed. Jean stayed with Melissa every night that she was in hospital. Now, four years after the accident, Jean drives Melissa 1000 miles each month to a clinic in France where she is receiving specialist treatment. She fundraises to make sure that Melissa received the best possible care, and has completed the Great North Run three times. She will be running again next weekend.

**Jean said:** "I don't think that what I do for Melissa is any more than any grandparent would do for their grandchild. I am very proud of all my lovely grandchildren and just want them to be healthy, happy and safe. My hope is to see Melissa walk again. I couldn't believe that Melissa had nominated me. I love being a grandparent and for me, it is its own reward."

**Melissa said:** "I have always been close to my Nanny and she has always been there for me. Now I need her more than ever and she does everything she can to make life better. She gives me really good advice and is the person that I go to whenever I have a problem. Plus, she's a real daredevil and quite mad some times which makes her fun to be with."

**Gordon Lishman, Director General of Age Concern England said:** "Jean is a thoroughly deserving winner. It is clear that they have a very strong bond with their grandchildren, and have supported and loved them through good and bad times.

"All of our regional finalists have inspired us, as their families are the most important thing in the world to them. It is clear that they are all winners to their grandchildren and we are honoured to have met so many fantastic grandparents today."

**Cherie Booth, QC said:** "I was very pleased to be asked to present this award, which is a celebration of how important grandparents are to family life. My own children think the world of their grandmother, my mother, who is here with me today. She is an enormous support to our family. I think this award is a very positive way to highlight the contribution that grandparents make to their families."