

As we approach the new calendar year, there is still much to look forward to and many events to attend. I will be continuing with my charity work and have a number of fundraising events planned which I hope you will be able to support, including the Mayor's annual Charity Ball to be held in February at Dukinfield Town Hall and a Charity Golf Day at Denton Golf Club in May.

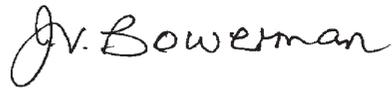
I would like to take the opportunity this evening to extend my sincere thanks to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Andy Kinsey for his hard work and support.

As your Mayoral team, Andy, Fred and myself have tried to be good ambassadors for the Council and for the Borough of Tameside and we intend to continue to work hard over the coming months.

Finally, I would like to thank all Members and Officers of the Council for your unwavering friendship, guidance and support and to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Thank you once again.

With every good wish.



Councillor Joyce Bowerman

Civic Mayor of Tameside



Annual Report

by The Civic Mayor of Tameside
Councillor Joyce Bowerman



As we reach the half-way mark in my Mayoral year, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the highlights from the last six months and to briefly outline my work programme for the remainder of my term of office.

As I am sure you will recall, the day of my inauguration was filled with great sadness as we all tried to come to terms with the devastating effects of the terror attack at the Manchester Arena the evening before. Our thoughts and prayers lay firmly with those people affected by this horrendous act of violence so very close to home.

You will remember that at the conclusion of the shortened Annual Meeting of the Council, we travelled together to Manchester to attend a Vigil in Albert Square to pay our respects and stand united against terrorism. At such an emotional time it was heartwarming to see thousands of people determined to show the world how the community of Greater Manchester pulls together in times of need and adversity.

Fred and I, together with the Deputy Mayor, were of course able to celebrate our inauguration at the Council Meeting in July and on that occasion we also acknowledged the appointments of Michael Ballagher and Alan Whitehead as Honorary Aldermen of the Borough and Margaret Downs as Honorary Alderwoman.

The evening was made even more special with a Freedom of the Borough Ceremony for Sir Geoff Hurst MBE to recognise his outstanding contribution to England's historic World Cup victory in 1966 and to celebrate his childhood connections to Tameside.

It was a wonderful evening and I was so pleased that Sir Geoff, Mike, Alan and Margaret all received the recognition they truly deserved.

There have been so many memorable events that we have attended over the last few months, including the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and a very special Regimental Service of Thanksgiving in Warrington with Civic Heads from across the region. Events closer to home have included the borough's Christmas Lights Switch On Ceremonies, Remembrance Parades, Whit Walks and the much-loved annual Whit Friday Brass Band Contest.

It is a real pleasure and an honour for Fred and I to be able to welcome visitors to the Mayor's Parlour at Dukinfield Town Hall. We have especially enjoyed the visits from local schoolchildren and community groups and it has been lovely to have the opportunity to say thank you and well done to some of the borough's volunteers.

We have met so many wonderful people during our time in office including three fabulous Practice Nurses who have each completed over 50 years' service and are still continuing to serve the community - what an amazing achievement that is.

We also had the pleasure of meeting Mr Norman Lee, President of Dukinfield Town and Youth Football Club. Norman was awarded the British Empire Medal in Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Honours List in recognition of his services to football and young people in Tameside. It was a privilege to welcome Norman and his guests to the Mayor's Parlour to celebrate his award and his work within the borough.

In addition, we were delighted to join the Dukinfield Ward Councillors at a reception to honour another stalwart of the footballing community, Mr Jimmy Gledhill. Jimmy has served Dukinfield Town FC for over half a century in a variety of roles including player, trainer and manager. He is still very much involved with the club and has no thoughts of hanging up his boots just yet.

In June, we were honoured to take part in the official opening of the new Macmillan Unit at Tameside Hospital and the wonderful Armed Forces Day celebration in Denton.

We were also immensely proud to attend the unveiling of the road sign at Lance Corporal Andrew Breeze Way in Denton, named in memory of one of Tameside's fallen heroes.

It has been lovely to visit our care centres to help celebrate the birthdays of the borough's centenarians. In June, we visited Mrs Mary Ward at Holme Lea on the occasion of her 100th birthday and just last month, we called upon Mrs Betty Morrison to offer our good wishes as she reached the splendid age of 106.

I was delighted to attend my first rugby match at the invitation of Aldwinians Rugby Club in Audenshaw and was proud to assist with the presentation of prizes at the very prestigious Pride of Tameside Sports Awards at Dukinfield Town Hall.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my visits to schools and it was especially nice to be involved in the official re-opening of Cromwell High School and to see the delight of the pupils and staff to be back in their own building after the dreadful fire in April 2016.

During the course of the year, it has been a real pleasure for me to work with my Mayoral charities. As Members know, my chosen charities this year are Tameside 4 Good, the Anthony Seddon Fund, Marie Curie and the Mesothelioma UK Charitable Trust. Each of these wonderful organisations holds a special place in my heart and I have been so pleased to be able to work alongside them.

