

Another very pleasurable duty was meeting the children at Rosehill Primary, Ashton, where Year 6 pupil Glorienna Taller was the school's mini-mayor.

As you can see, it has been a very busy schedule, and there is so much more I could have mentioned. Yet there is much to look forward to in 2019, and many functions to attend. I will be continuing with my charity work and have a number of fund-raising events planned which I hope you will be able to support, including the annual charity ball and a charity golf day.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Leigh Drennan, and his consort, Corey James, for all their hard work, but more especially to my husband, Cllr Dave McNally, who has been a constant source of support and encouragement.

As your mayoral team, Joe, Dave and I have tried to be good ambassadors for the council and for the whole of Tameside. We intend to continue to work hard into the spring when my term of office ends.

Finally, I would like to thank all members and officers of the council for their unwavering friendship, guidance and support. I conclude by wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Thank you once again with every good wish

Denise Ward

Cllr Denise Ward
Civic Mayor of Tameside





Annual Report

by The Civic Mayor of Tameside
Councillor Denise Ward



As I conclude the first half of my mayoral year, I would like to share some of the highlights with you and briefly outline the programme for the remainder of my term of office.

I was installed as civic mayor at the full meeting of Tameside Council on 21 May and at once I got to perform the first of many very enjoyable duties. It was an honour to take part in the ceremony to confer the title of honorary alderman on Jim Middleton in recognition of his many years of service as a hard-working councillor in Droylsden East ward.

As you will know, a major part of the Civic Mayor's remit is to raise money for the annual charity appeal. This has been a real pleasure and I'm delighted to report that things have been very productive so far. At the start of October I hosted a function at the Indian Plaza restaurant in Audenshaw which raised £4,000 on its own. I have also had support from Jack Naylor who ran the Manchester half marathon and raised £538 for my chosen charities.

My chosen charities this year are Macmillan Cancer Support; the St Vincent de Paul Society at St Mary's Church, Denton; Tameside 4 Good, Willow Wood Hospice and Forget-me-not Buddies. Each of these organisations holds a special place in my heart and I am pleased to be able to work in partnership them.

Considering 2018 is the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, you won't be surprised to hear that military events have figured prominently in my programme. In June I attended Armed Forces Day in Victoria Park, Denton, and I have enjoyed working with the Tameside Armed Forces Community.

In September I was proud to attend the opening of Harvey Holmes Way in Hyde which commemorates a very brave young man, Cpl Harvey Holmes, who lost his life while serving in Afghanistan with the Mercian Regiment.

As Armistice Sunday approached, I helped to launch the 11 Days of Remembrance which offered a different event every day from 1 November. The silhouette figures of British Tommies formed a sombre and thought-provoking backdrop on the canal bridge at Portland Basin.

Over the summer, I was equally proud to meet members of the emergency services who did such a valiant job fighting the moorland fires above Stalybridge and Mossley which at one point threatened homes and businesses in Carrbrook.

It was a time when the community came together. We have many unsung heroes in Tameside but occasionally some get the recognition they deserve. Two such



people are Mick Nield and Kevin Taylor who were mentioned in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Mick was awarded the MBE for his work with Oldham Mountain Rescue, and Kevin was given a British Empire Medal for his efforts with Hyde Fundraisers. I was able to visit Mick at the rescue group's base in Greenfield. Kevin and friends came into the parlour at Dukinfield Town Hall where I was able to entertain them and learn about their work.

I was also very interested to meet Hyde boxer Stacey Copeland. She is a European silver-medallist and the first British woman to win a Commonwealth Games title. She had a fascinating story to tell of how she carved out a career in what is still viewed as a man's sport.

Welcoming people to the parlour is one of the great pleasures of being civic mayor. It provides a small reward for the dedication shown by so many people in the borough. Groups who have been in so far include Willow Wood Hospice, Loxley House in Dukinfield, and the Leap Children and Families Centre in Ashton.

I look forward to entertaining more volunteers as my mayoral year progresses.

One thing visitors to the parlour will have noticed over the summer was that there was no sugar on offer in any of its forms. After attending the Ditching Sugar symposium at Tameside Hospital I resolved to take their 70-day sugar-free challenge and I'm happy to say I made it to the end. If we are all to live happier, healthier, more productive lives it's imperative we think about what we eat.

Of course, there are always some sad occasions the Civic Mayor must attend, and one of these was in June when I went to the funeral of Cllr Cath Piddington. Cath was a force of nature, totally committed to the people she represented, and I'm sure she'll be deeply missed in Waterloo ward for a very long time.

Two other events I found to be very emotional were the Working Together to Prevent Suicide forum, which included a candlelight vigil, and the Wave of Light Service at Ashton Parish Church for parents whose babies left them too soon.

In contrast with the tears that some functions bring on, mayors also get lots of very happy duties to perform, and thanks to those I got to meet two very special ladies.

Hilda Eden, who lives at Pendle House, Denton, was celebrating her 100th birthday. May Trill, another Denton woman, and one who will only admit to being in her nineties, is a former teacher who has supported the Girl Guides and Brownies since 1949.

