

It has been a pleasure to work hand in hand with our town teams during the year and I have been pleased to support many of their events including a classic car show in Hyde, beer festival in Droylsden and Christmas market in Denton.

As part of my Mayoral duties, I have enjoyed attending productions by our local theatre groups including a fabulous performance of "The Railway Children" by the very talented Mossley Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society.

Over the past few weeks, I have been busy attending the borough's Remembrance services and Christmas lights switch-on ceremonies and it has been wonderful to see the vast numbers of people attending these events and supporting these important occasions.

As the new year quickly approaches, there is still much to look forward to and many more events to attend including the Mayor's Annual Fundraising Ball in February and Charity Golf Day in the spring.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Janet Cooper and her Consort, Dennis for their hard work, friendship and support over the last few months.

Together, we have tried to be good ambassadors for the Council and for the Borough of Tameside and we intend to continue to work hard during 2017.

Finally, I would like to thank all elected members for your continued encouragement and support and to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.

Thank you once again.

With every good wish.

P. M. Fitzpatrick

Councillor Philip Fitzpatrick

Civic Mayor of Tameside



Annual Report

by The Civic Mayor of Tameside
Councillor Philip Fitzpatrick



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.

I was proud to be installed as Civic Mayor of Tameside on 24 May 2016 and since then, with the support of the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Janet Cooper and her Consort, Dennis, have completed almost 200 engagements.

Whilst carrying out my civic duties I have met some really wonderful and truly inspirational people and have enjoyed many happy and memorable events.

I have especially enjoyed visiting the borough's schools and working with our younger citizens and it has been wonderful to take part in the Junior Mayor assemblies and to crown pupils Junior Mayor for the day.

It has been a pleasure to welcome voluntary groups to the Mayor's Parlour and to be able to recognise some of Tameside's unsung heroes including organisations that have recently received the very prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and individuals who have been awarded a national honour.

In June, I was delighted to be involved in events celebrating Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday including a party at Werneth House and special services at Ashton Parish Church and St Mary's Church in Newton, led by my Chaplain, the Reverend Annie Woodcock.

I was also honoured to attend events to mark the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme, one of the most significant battles of World War I. I attended a commemoration locally at Hyde Chapel and also further afield at Blackburn Cathedral with representatives of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

In July, I was privileged to attend the unveiling of the national memorial to Tameside police officers Fiona Bone and Nicola Hughes who were tragically killed in the line of duty in September 2012.

The ceremony was held at The Hub in Mottram and was attended by the former Prime Minister, the Rt Hon David Cameron MP and the families of Fiona and Nicola together with civic dignitaries and representatives of the Police Memorial Trust.

It was a very emotional afternoon filled with great sadness but also immense pride as we remembered and paid tribute to two incredibly brave police officers cruelly taken from us whilst doing the job they loved.

More recently, Fiona and Nicola were also remembered by members of the local community who held a special dedication ceremony on the fourth anniversary of their death.

There have been a number of events held throughout the year to recognise sporting achievements in the borough.

I was pleased to be able to welcome to the Mayor's Parlour four very talented young Active Tameside gymnasts on their return from America after representing the UK in the USAIGC World Championships in Florida. I was also delighted to attend a female international boxing show at Dukinfield Masonic Hall featuring boxers from the England and Ireland Junior and Youth European Teams. It was a fantastic event and great night for women's boxing and for Tameside.

It has been a pleasure to support events at some of our local football clubs including the launch of the fabulous new community facility at Hyde United FC and a community day at Curzon Ashton FC and I was thrilled to be present at the 2016 Pride of Tameside Sports Awards held at Dukinfield Town Hall to honour some of the borough's most talented sports performers, coaches and volunteers.

Just last month, I was pleased to officially open the brand new Run England 3-2-1 course in Hyde Park. The introduction of the 900m running course around the park was a joint project between Tameside Greenspace, Active Tameside and Tameside Care Together and hopefully it will encourage more people to put on their running or walking shoes and to have a go regardless of age, fitness level or aspiration.

Staying with a sporting theme, I felt very privileged to attend the Heroes Parade in Manchester on 17 October, to welcome home our Olympic and Paralympic sporting superstars after their magnificent performance in Rio earlier in the year. Both British squads finished second in their respective medal tables and it was wonderful to be able to join the nation in toasting their success in Manchester City Centre.

I have attended numerous community events over the last few months organised by teams of dedicated volunteers including the annual Gee Cross Fete and Well Dressing, Stalybridge Festival, Mottram Show, Denton Carnival, Tameside Beer Festival and many more traditional family fun days and activity days in our towns and parks.

The 2016 Tameside Scarecrow and Harvest Festival held in Hyde Park at the beginning of October was a huge success, an event organised by the community for the community with fun, entertainment and activities for all the family to enjoy including the very popular scarecrow trail. It was reported by the local police that we had over 5,000 visitors to the park on the day.

