



Annual Report

by The Civic Mayor of Tameside
Councillor Vincent Ricci



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.

Since our Inauguration in May, Julie and I have been extremely busy with our civic duties and have completed almost 200 engagements.

We have met some really wonderful and truly inspirational people and have enjoyed many happy and memorable events.

Our first official duty as Civic Mayor and Mayoress of Tameside began the morning following our Inauguration when we travelled to London to attend the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. We had a lovely time and it was a privilege to represent the borough on such an important and prestigious occasion.

In June, we were delighted to attend the annual Armed Forces Day Celebration in Victoria Park in Denton. This event holds a special place in my heart as it always brings back fond memories of my dear friend and colleague Councillor Martin Wareing MBE. I felt incredibly honoured to be able to join the celebrations this year in my capacity as Civic Mayor and I know Martin would have been looking down on us all with great pleasure and pride.

The same month, we were asked to start the third and final race in the 2015 Tour of Tameside. It was fantastic to be able to help welcome 'the tour' back to the borough after a long absence and it was especially nice to see the founder and athletics legend Dr Ron Hill MBE giving his support.

Julie and I have taken part in many school visits over the last few months. It has been a pleasure to meet and chat to our young citizens and to answer their many varied and interesting questions regarding the Mayoralty and the functions of the Council.

We have also enjoyed welcoming schools and community groups to the Mayor's Parlour here at Dukinfield Town Hall and it has been good to be able to show guests another of our beautiful Town Halls.

In October, Tameside was asked to host a special ceremony for citizens across the county receiving the British Empire Medal. The Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff of Greater Manchester were in attendance and Julie and I felt immensely proud that our Town Hall had been chosen to host this important occasion.

Two Tameside citizens received the BEM at this ceremony. Mrs Ann Barlow from Ashton-under-Lyne received her award for her services as a Homewatch Co-ordinator and Mrs Jean Montgomery from Denton for her services to the Cub and Scout movement. Both ladies deliver outstanding work within their local communities and make a huge difference to the lives of so many people.

It has been a pleasure for Julie and I to work alongside the High Sheriff, Mrs Sharman Birtles.

As a Tameside resident and a loyal supporter of the Mayoralty, our paths have crossed on many occasions. Sharman is doing a wonderful job and is extremely busy, always conducting her civic duties with great dignity and pride.

As well as promoting the county, the High Sheriff is keen to help us put Tameside on the map and in the summer, hosted a very successful luncheon for the Civic Heads of Greater Manchester at Droylsden Academy. The food and facilities at the school were second to none and the civic guests certainly took away with them an excellent impression of our borough.

Recently we were both delighted to be involved in the visit to Willow Wood Hospice by His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester.

It has been an honour for Julie and I to work alongside Willow Wood and indeed all our chosen Mayoral charities this year. We have enjoyed working on fundraising projects with Tameside 4 Good and were pleased to be able to support Macmillan at their annual World's Biggest Coffee Morning event in September.

We spent a lovely afternoon with the members of the Tameside and Glossop Parkinson's UK Support Group at their Domino Drive in Denton and made an emotional visit to the Maternity Unit at Tameside Hospital, including the Harebell Suite for bereaved parents.

Just last month, we joined our friends at Christian's Against Poverty (CAP Tameside) at their annual 'CAP Sunday' event in Denton and next week we look forward to hosting the Mayor's annual Christmas Party for the borough's young carers.

The visit to the Maternity Unit was just one of several recent visits to Tameside Hospital. Julie and I have been pleased to be able to support the Chief Executive and her team on a number of new initiatives including the opening of the Farmer's Market, Foodbank and art exhibition by the new artist in residence, Mr Jeff Ward.

We have also enjoyed working hand in hand with our town teams on events such as the Christmas lights switch on ceremonies, the Eid celebration and 'Small Business Saturday'.

Along with many happy occasions, the year has also been touched by sadness.

In the summer, we lost our Honorary Alderman of the Borough and dear friend, Mrs Lena Eason who passed away at the grand age of 95. Lena was Mayoress of Tameside when her husband Jim became the borough's very first Mayor in 1974, she later became Mayor herself in 1991-92. Lena was a lovely lady and a wonderful character, she is very sadly missed by all who knew and loved her.



On 7 July, we observed a minute's silence to remember, 10 years on, the victims of the London bombings in 2005 and last month, we stood in silence once again to remember those people killed in the Paris terror attacks on 13 November.

As Christmas and the New Year quickly approaches, we have much to look forward to and many events to attend including the Mayor's annual Fundraising Ball in February and Charity Golf Day in the spring. Julie and I hope we can rely on your continued support.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to Julie, my Mayoress and to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Philip Fitzpatrick for their hard work and unwavering 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 working hard during 2016.

Finally, I would like to thank all Members for your encouragement and support this year and to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Thank you once again.

With every good wish.



Councillor Vincent Ricci

Civic Mayor of Tameside

