

Annual Report

By The Civic Mayor of Tameside
Councillor Brenda Warrington



As we are just over half way through my Mayoral year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on my term of office to date and to outline my work programme for the remainder of the year.

Since my Inauguration in May, I have been extremely busy with my Mayoral duties and I am pleased to report that I have completed almost 200 engagements.

I have met some wonderful and truly inspirational people over the last six months and have enjoyed many happy occasions.

Thinking back to my very first week in office, Graham and I were fortunate to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. It was a very special day and a wonderful celebration in this, Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year.

Another memorable occasion was of course the day Tameside welcomed the Olympic Torch. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the Olympic Flame as it passed through Ashton-under-Lyne.

It has been a pleasure to attend and support the various ceremonies which fall under the "Pride of Tameside" banner and which celebrate the achievements of people from across the Borough in fields such as volunteering, sport and business.

I have been invited to several events in Hyde Park including the launch of the Community Orchard and Apple Sunday where I felt incredibly honoured to receive the first jar of honey made from the Park's very own bees.

Town twinning has played a significant part in my duties as Civic Mayor. In September, I was delighted to be able to join Mossley Twinning Association and the Mayor and guests from Hem as they came together to celebrate their 40th twinning anniversary.

Just days later, I was invited to take part in a special twinning celebration in Denton which acknowledged 20 years of successful town twinning with Montigny-le-Bretonneux in France and also the beginning of our new town twinning with Kierspe in Germany.

Last weekend Graham and I accompanied a delegation from Denton as they travelled to Montigny for the town's annual Christmas Market. It was a wonderful experience and the perfect opportunity to further develop these twinning links.

Many Members kindly supported my Fire Walk in October at Denton West Cricket Club. Myself and ward colleagues, Councillors Dawson Lane and Mike Smith, took part in the event in aid of Cancer Research UK. I am so pleased that I completed the challenge and even have a certificate and a photograph to prove I did it!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Margaret Sidebottom for her support of my Mayoral Charity Appeal Fund.

Margaret kindly offered to do a sponsored swim for the charity and completed a staggering 64 lengths, the equivalent to a mile. Margaret raised the wonderful sum of £258.

I have enjoyed welcoming guests to the Town Hall, especially volunteers - our unsung heroes who contribute so much to the life of the Borough.

I have had the pleasure of hosting visits from a number of school groups and have always found the children and young people well behaved and delightfully inquisitive about the history and functions of the Council.

One very special visitor to the Mayor's Parlour was 92 year old Mr Albert Mellor from Mossley.

Mr Mellor saw active duty in WWII but never collected the medals he was entitled to. Recently, Mr Mellor's family managed to gain his war records from the Ministry of Defence and applied for duplicate medals. It was my pleasure and my honour to present Albert with his medals at a small ceremony in the Town Hall.

A few weeks ago, I was delighted to receive 10 year old Beth Mellor to the Mayor's Parlour. Beth's mum, Michelle, was sadly diagnosed with thyroid cancer, this devastating news spurred Beth on to raise in excess of £1800 for The Christie Hospital and Butterfly Cancer Trust and I wanted to take the opportunity to congratulate her and say thank you for all her fundraising efforts.

In October, Graham and I spent a very exciting afternoon and evening with the North Tameside District Scouts at Camp in the beautiful setting of Dunham Massey.

Thankfully the weather stayed dry and we were able to join the young people in their games and activities, we even had a go at archery. The day was rounded off with a delicious roast dinner and fun and entertainment around the camp fire.

Over the last few weeks, I have been busy with the Remembrance Day events and the Christmas Lights switch on ceremonies across the Borough, occasions that I have been extremely proud and pleased to attend.

Recently, I also took part in a photocall with Michael Burkill. Michael, who lives in Ashton-under-Lyne, is a Telecare service user and was specially chosen to attend the Telecare Services Association Annual Conference in Birmingham.

Michael shared the stage at the conference with TV celebrity Fiona Phillips, Norman Lamb MP, Minister for Care Services and former Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt MP.

At the end of last month, I was pleased to attend a special service at Manchester Cathedral in honour of the Bishop of Manchester, The Right Reverend Nigel McCulloch. Bishop Nigel will retire in January after more than a decade serving Greater Manchester and Rossendale.



The year has also been touched by tragedy. We will all remember with great sadness that terrible day in September when two of our Police Officers were killed in Mottram whilst carrying out their duties.

It was an incredibly difficult time for the families and friends of PC Nicola Hughes and PC Fiona Bone and of course the Police Family as a whole but I do know they managed to find some comfort from the overwhelming show of love and support from the people of this Borough and beyond.

I was honoured to represent Tameside Council at the funerals of the two Police Officers held at Manchester Cathedral.

As we move into the New Year, I will be hosting a Valentine's Ball in aid of the Mayor's Charity in February and I hope Members will join me on this important and very prestigious occasion

I will also be hosting a Charity Golf Day at Denton Golf Club in the spring and once again, I would appreciate your support for this event.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my special thanks to my husband and Mayoral Consort, Graham and to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Vincent Ricci and Deputy Mayoress, Mrs Julie Ricci for their hard work and much valued support throughout the year.

Together as your Mayoral Team, we have tried to be good ambassadors for the Council and for the Borough of Tameside and we hope you can be proud of what we have achieved to date and what we hope to achieve in the coming months.

We thank you all for your encouragement and support and we look forward to working with you in 2013

Have a wonderful Christmas.



Councillor Brenda Warrington

Civic Mayor of Tameside

