

In November, we were honoured to take part in the borough's Remembrance Services and Parades. It was overwhelming to see the number of people attending these special ceremonies and paying their respects to our brave servicemen and women.

During the year, Jackie and I have met some wonderful and truly inspirational people including 91 year old Mr Norman Coleman, a Second World War veteran. We first met Norman on Armed Forces Day but have enjoyed several occasions with him since.

Earlier this year, Norman was presented with the Legion D'Honneur, France's highest honour at a ceremony hosted by the French Ambassador on Bastille Day and more recently, it was my privilege to be able to present Norman and fellow World War II veteran Frank Quinn with their Veteran Star medals at special celebration with family and friends in Stalybridge.

As Christmas and New Year quickly approaches, we have much to look forward to and many events to attend including the Mayor's annual Valentine's Ball and Charity Golf Day at Denton Golf Club in the spring.

Jackie and I also hope to host a series of Tea Dances in each of the borough's nine towns.

We hope we can rely on your continued support.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to Jackie, my Mayoress and to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Denise Ward and her Consort, Councillor David McNally. They have all worked incredibly hard over the last few months and I am truly grateful for their support.

Together, as your Mayoral Team, we have tried to be good ambassadors for the Council and for the borough of as a whole. Please be assured that we will continue to work hard over the coming months.

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

I look forward to working with you in 2015.

Best wishes.

Councillor Dawson Lane
Civic Mayor of Tameside

Annual Report

By The Civic Mayor of Tameside Councillor Dawson Lane



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

Since our Inauguration in June, Jackie and I have been extremely busy with our civic duties. In fact, we have completed almost 200 engagements.

We have met some fantastic people along the way and have enjoyed many, many wonderful occasions.

Shortly after our inauguration we were fortunate to be able to attend the annual Tameside Whit Friday Brass Band Contest and what an amazing night it was. There were 11 different contest venues in total this year and Jackie and I worked hard to ensure we attended each one.

It was fantastic to see brass bands from across the country visiting the borough to compete in the competition and also the thousands of people who came out to support the event and enjoy a night of traditional entertainment.

We also had a wonderful time at the borough's annual Armed Forces Day event in Victoria Park, Denton.

The park was awash with people wishing to show their support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community, from currently serving troops to Service families, from veterans to cadets.

The day began with a short Service of Remembrance at the park's War Memorial, followed by a Centenary Tea for veterans served in a marquee on the Civic Square. In the afternoon, there was a full programme of entertainment in the park for all ages to enjoy. It really was the perfect day to acknowledge and celebrate the valuable contribution made by Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

As many Members will know, I have a keen interest in sport and I have been delighted to be able to incorporate this in my Mayoral duties.

I had a wonderful time at the Greater Manchester School Games supporting the borough's young athletes and it was an honour to be able to attend the very prestigious Pride of Tameside Sports Awards at Dukinfield Town Hall.

During the summer, I teamed up with Active Tameside for my 'Move with the Mayor' Campaign.

The campaign took place over the school holidays when I attended a wide variety of events at our local sports centres in the hope of encouraging more people to find their active side and take advantage of the many different activities available to them. You may have seen me trampolining in Droylsden, boxing in Mottram, cycling in Ashton or perhaps even shooting down the water slide at Hyde Leisure Pool.

In August, I took part in a sky dive to help raise funds for my Mayoral Charity Appeal Fund. What an experience, it was both terrifying and exhilarating but a day I will never forget. To date the jump has raised in excess of £2700 and monies are still coming in!

My sincere thanks go to everybody who has supported me and my chosen charities.

This year, the Mayor's charity is dedicated to a small number of good causes close to my heart including Tameside 4 Good, The Alex Williams Believe and Achieve Appeal, The Alzheimer's Society, Ruffley House (Women's Refuge), Sophie's Tiny Steps, The Stroke Association and Willow Wood Hospice.

It has been wonderful to work alongside these very special charities and to support them in their work.

Jackie and I have particularly enjoyed hosting receptions in the Town Hall for representatives of the borough's community and voluntary organisations.

Tameside is extremely fortunate to have many wonderful people working within its local community and it has been lovely to be able to welcome volunteers to the Mayor's Parlour to acknowledge this service.

It has been especially nice to receive local school children to the Town Hall and to continue with the Junior Mayor programme which proved so successful last year when Councillor Joe Kitchen was Civic Mayor.

Dressed in full Mayoral robes and chain of office, the Junior Mayors have accompanied me into the Council Chamber preceded by the borough Mace. We have then sat together whilst I chat to the children about my role as Civic Mayor before concluding with a question and answer session.

They really are lovely events and a wonderful experience for all the young people involved.

This year does of course mark the Centenary of the start of World War I and Jackie and I have been proud to be able to take part in a number of commemorations to acknowledge this important anniversary.

We have worked closely with the Council's Cultural Services Team on several centenary projects including work surrounding the magnificent "War Horse" production at The Lowry where we were delighted to accompany 300 very excited Tameside schoolchildren to see the play.

In addition to events held within the borough, we were also invited to attend services in Chester Cathedral and Tatton Park and to join our Freemen of the Borough, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment at a special commemoration in Ypres and at the Indian Army Memorial in Neuve Chapelle.

